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TRAVELS  
IN  
GREECE AND TURKEY,

UNDERTAKEN

BY ORDER OF LOUIS XVI.

AND

WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE OTTOMAN COURT;

BY

C. S. SONNINI,

MEMBER OF SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY SOCIETIES,  
OF THE SOCIETIES OF AGRICULTURE OF PARIS,  
AND OF THE OBSERVERS OF MEN.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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Illustrated by Engravings,

AND

A MAP OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

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TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

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VOL. II.

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Mores multorum vidit et urbes.

HOR.

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1801.





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### ERRATA.

#### VOL. II.

✍ Many of the following being typographical errors that may affect the sense, the Reader is requested to mark them with a pen or pencil, before he enters on the work.

Page	20	Line	11	for the evening, read in the evening
	61	—	6,	for appendage read appanage
	102	—	15,	for are read is
	110	—	8,	for kemina read hemina
	147	—	25,	for the worms read worms
	167	—	8,	for hawks read sparrow-hawks
	173	—	9,	for Maine read Maina
	179	—	17,	dele but
	205	—	1,	for the shielded pleuronectes read the turbot
	212	—	20,	for phosphira read prosphira
	258	—	17,	for there read here
	311	—	8,	for appendage read appanage
	328	—	4,	dele dry
	343	—	28,	for grasshoppers read locusts
	344	—	9,	for grasshoppers read locusts
	364	—	25,	for shared read partook

# TRAVELS

IN

## GREECE AND TURKEY.

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### CHAPTER XXIII.

*Departure from Canea.—Currents.—Winter-season in the Archipelago.—Hollow agitation of the waters of the sea.—Storm.—Arrival at Argentiera.—Roadstead of Argentiera.—Singular direction of the currents.—San Nicolo.—Maltese privateer.—Turkish ship of war.—A French vessel, loaded with the equipages of Ismael Bey, is wrecked.—Officers of the Porte sent on this occasion.—Their manner of exercising justice.—French agent at Argentiera.—His old services.—The injustice which he experienced.—His influence in the Levant.*

THE Provençal polacre which had brought me from ALEXANDRIA to CANEA, in my second visit to the Island of CANDIA, had there left her cargo. The activity of the

*caravane*, that is to say, of the carrying-trade from one port to another, was so great in the seas of TURKEY; the circulation of merchandise was so rapid, that, in less than a month, the vessel in which I had arrived, had taken in a fresh cargo for SMYRNA; and, on the 30th of November, 1778, the day on which she set sail from the harbour of CANEA, she had been waiting a week for a favourable wind, in order to proceed to her new destination.

I again availed myself of this vessel to cross the small space of sea, which separates the Isle of CANDIA from the first islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. Though this is a run of no more than about twenty-five or thirty hours, and the winds had not thwarted us, we were three days on our passage. Indeed, we met with some sudden and violent squalls; but, as they did not throw us out of our course, we could not attribute to them the slowness of our progress. It was occasioned by the currents which set to the southward with so much rapidity, that, the day after our departure from CANEA, we reckoned ourselves at no more than six leagues from the Isle of MILO, whereas, in reality, we were still distant from it upwards of fifteen.

The



The winter was beginning to be felt in this part of the seas of the LEVANT, not by hoar-frosts, but by impetuous winds; and this bad season, in which navigation is more rough and dangerous, in the midst of a labyrinth of islands and shoals, does not last three months: it is, in general, reckoned only from the middle of December to the middle of February. In 1778, it took place much sooner. As early as the close of November, the atmosphere was loaded with big clouds, driven by violent winds, and the sky was covered with the black and sinister appearance of a tempest. This gloomy anticipation of storms foreboded a remarkable variation in the temperature; the winter of this year was, indeed, a very short one, but very cold, and covered with snow and ice both lands and plants, unaccustomed to lose their gentle warmth and their verdure.

Although the wind was faint, the sky serene, and the surface of the sea slightly furrowed by waves, when we came out of the harbour of CANEA, we felt the ship shake below, in an extraordinary manner; and these movements, which were communicated only from the bottom of the vessel, indicated a hollow and internal agitation, a

certain preface of an approaching rising of the waves.

A furious gale of wind from the south-west assailed us at the entrance of the roadstead of ARGENTIERA. I never saw the horizon so darkened: the day was hidden: although the sun had scarcely reached the half of his course, night seemed to have spread her black and mournful wings over the earth; and this darkness appeared still more profound from the vivid brightness of the repeated flashes of lightning which clove the skies; thunder burst on all sides; we had disappeared to the eyes of the inhabitants of ARGENTIERA; and their island, which we were on the point of touching, was concealed in a shade impenetrable to the most piercing sight. The danger became imminent, and the faint-heartedness of the captain still increased it: in his distress, he vented his murmurs against me, who had induced him to enter a channel so narrow as that in which we were, and which he would have avoided, had I not wished to be landed at ARGENTIERA. Fortunately, the sea could not rise in this confined space, and we succeeded in casting anchor under shelter of the island. This is the place the most frequented by ships which navigate in  
the

the ARCHIPELAGO. Situated at the entrance of that multitude of islands, it affords to navigators an anchorage the more convenient, as it is open on all sides, and no wind can prevent them from leaving it at pleasure. They likewise find there pilots accustomed to conduct ships in the midst of lands and rocks, separated by a number of winding channels, and affording little space to traverse.

This road of ARGENTIERA is formed by the Isle of MILO to the south west, by that of ARGENTIERA to the north, and by the small Islands of SAN GEORGIO and of POLIVO to the east. Trading vessels anchor between the Islands of ARGENTIERA and SAN GEORGIO, but nearer to the former, to which they commonly carry out a hawser to serve as moorings. In this position, where vessels are sheltered from the wind and the sea from the north, as much as it is possible to be in this road, they lie quite close to the foot of a high mountain which conceals the view of the village, and no trace of habitation or culture is there to be discovered.

But this anchorage has not a sufficient depth of water for ships of war and large vessels; they come to more to the north, or to the north-east, in a channel near POLIVO.

A remark which, at first sight, appears very extraordinary, is, that in the place where large vessels cast anchor, and where the currents run frequently with great rapidity, the direction of these currents is often contrary to that of the wind; that is to say, that the waters run to the north, when the wind blows from that point, and that they set to the south, when the south wind prevails. Their violence even is in proportion to that of the winds, and so impetuous, that it has happened more than once that a frigate, with her mizentopfail, maintopfail, and foresail loose, could not keep head to wind, but remained riding athwart.

This species of phenomenon, astonishing in the eyes of navigators little accustomed to observation, is the effect of the eddy or current doubled, which causes the waters to take a course contrary to their general direction. The more violently they are impelled by the winds, the more evident is this effect, and the more must it be felt by ships which are exposed to it.

A small cove below the village of ARGENTIERA, and at nearly half the length of the channel, is fit only for the reception of the boats of the country, and, indeed, they are  
not



not there in safety. When they have a rather long stay to make on the coast of the island, they proceed more to the northward, to a cove where they are perfectly sheltered. This narrow harbour, which is suitable only to very small vessels, is called *SAN NICOLO*, from the name of a little chapel dedicated to ST. NICHOLAS, in whom the Greeks have great confidence. This chapel is the only building on that coast; all there is rock and desert.

There was, on my arrival in the little cove of ARGENTIERA, a Maltese felucca, forming a part of an armament which had sailed from MALTA, and was commanded by a Frenchman named CORAL. The crew of this felucca consisted only of fourteen hands. Of all privateer's-men, this captain was certainly the greatest knave. He was a Slavonian, extraordinarily brave, but still a greater drunkard, and at the same time a plunderer extremely dreaded. He had long followed this trade, and long been known in the ARCHIPELAGO, where he had rendered himself formidable, and had even had the audacity to settle, having married a Greek woman belonging to MYCONI. A Greek, brother to a drogueman of the PORTE, com-

manded there; the Slavonian had some difference with him, and ended by giving him a sound drubbing. After this violent proceeding, he rightly judged that it was not possible for him to remain in an island governed by a powerful man whom he had so outrageously treated: he retired to a neighbouring island. But, the Greek having preferred his complaint to the Captain-Pacha, four *tscharoufchs*, or police-officers of the PORTE, were sent thither with orders to the Greeks to give their utmost assistance in seizing the Slavonian. The latter resided in a small village distant from the sea: led by some business, he was on his way to the harbour, when the *tscharoufchs* arrived there; he had no suspicion, but was walking along in his usual manner, armed at all points. The police-officers had taken with them twenty Greeks, and, in order to surprise the impetuous foreigner, were advancing with precipitation towards the place where he dwelt, when they met him. He was not disconcerted; and, conceiving, from the sight of this party, that he was the man on whom they had a design, he threw off his cloak, and with his sabre in one hand, and a pistol in the other, he fell, swearing at the same time,

time, on the undisciplined band, and put it to the rout. Turks and Greeks, all took to their heels; it was who could get away the quickest. As for the Sclavonian, satisfied with having got rid of a troublesome and dastardly gang, and with having deprived them of any wish to return to the charge, he quietly continued his way. However, he was sensible that he could no longer remain in safety in a country where he would not fail to be overwhelmed by numbers, and delivered up to the vengeance of the Turks; he quitted his wife and his dwelling, and returned to MALTA, there to resume his old profession of free-booter.

Anxious to have a near view of so paltry an armed vessel as the felucca commanded by this Sclavonian, I repaired on board. I was there offered a very nice collation of dried and preserved fruits, and excellent CYPRUS wine, which had not cost much to those who piqued themselves on it. I was extremely astonished that a vessel, fit at most for a summer carrying-trade in the ARCHIPELAGO, could have arrived there from MALTA, and sailed in the open sea. Upwards of a month had elapsed since this little felucca had separated from the Commodore's ship,  
and

and it was suspected that the separation had been concerted among the people, to whom was imputed the design of appropriating to their own use a sum of four hundred thousand livres which they had on board, and which accrued from their depredations. But they were not agreed among themselves as to the means of securing the possession and the division of riches so ill acquired. The greater part of the crew mistrusted the captain, and were apprehensive that his connexions in these parts, his boldness, and his dishonesty, would induce him to carry off the sum, and thus deprive of it his companions in danger and rapine. On the other hand, they all dreaded to expose themselves, in the winter time, to proceed to MALTA in so frail a vessel. There occurred, in my presence, a very animated discussion on the subject; the result was, that the commander would make arrangements with the French captain of the polacre on board of which I had arrived, to convey to MALTA the privateer's men and their booty; and I was requested to apprize the latter of a project which could not but be agreeable to him.

The very next day, the time fixed for settling about the freight, the Sclavonian repaired



repaired on board the polacre. He dined there, and this interview gave rise to some pleasant scenes, from the contrast afforded by the character of the two captains. The Frenchman, a mild and well-behaved man, had, besides, a considerable share of devotion; the oaths and imprecations of the captain of the privateer affected him strangely; and he was on the point of signing his name, when, having observed to the Sclavonian that he ought to think of the salvation of his soul, the only answer he received to this pious remonstrance, was the brutal assertion that that was useless, because it was not possible that the Almighty could pay any attention to rascals like himself.

At last, after a long altercation, the price of the conveyance to MALTA was settled at twelve hundred dollars; the privateer's-man requested to return on board his felucca, in order, as he said, to fetch that sum, and pay it instantly; but we saw no more of him; and, after having, no doubt, deceived his people as to the pretended impossibility of coming to any agreement, he immediately set sail, and saluted us by the discharge of a swivel, on passing us at some distance.

A few days after, Captain CORAL, the  
1. commander

commander of the expedition, came into the road of ARGENTIERA with a small frigate. He was in search of his felucca, but we were unable to tell him what was become of her. According to every appearance, the little treasure which she had on board had been carried off by the Slavonian, or swallowed up with him in the waves. The next day but one after the arrival of this frigate, there arose a terrible gale from the north, which forced a Turkish ship of war to take shelter in the same roadstead. The wind was so violent, that, at the very moment when this ship anchored, her masts were cut away, in order to avoid dragging her anchors, and being dashed to pieces on the coast. The first danger being over, the Turks perceiving that they were near an enemy's frigate, were preparing to jump overboard, and swim on shore. But the same panic, which had taken possession of the Turkish crew, reigned on board the Maltese privateer; and, through an inconceivable resolution, CORAL cut his cables, and fled with precipitation. Had he taken the smallest step for approaching the dismasted ship, he would have made himself master of her without experiencing the slightest resistance.

The

The same storm proved fatal to a French vessel, having on board part of the suite and equipage of ISMAEL, a Bey of EGYPT, who, after having driven MURAD Bey from CAIRO, had, in his turn, been dislodged from that city, and banished to SYRIA, whence he was repairing to CONSTANTINOPLE. This shipwreck was a misfortune for the Greeks of ARGENTIERA. The PORTE dispatched a *cadi* with two vessels, in order to ascertain the loss of the effects of ISMAEL Bey, and recover the greatest part possible. I was witness of the sort of inquest of these pretended officers of justice; there were many bastinadoes distributed, many vexations exercised, and the most valuable part of the booty remained in the hands of those who were come to save it, and transmit it to the owner.

The number of ships which repaired to the road of ARGENTIERA, from every point of the seas of the LEVANT, made the island of that name an important post for navigation and commerce. The French maintained a consul there, and this place had been filled by M. BREST, who had resided there for upwards of forty years. His title was changed, and his appointments were diminished; he became vice-consul, and, during the latter part of

of his life, he had the mortification to see himself reduced to the simple quality of agent of the general consulate of SMYRNA; a singular reward for long services. But, at a time when every thing was sacrificed to the most mistaken show, when modest merit was frequently a title to forgetfulness and neglect, when services unsupported by favour obtained no recommendation, such instances of injustice were not uncommon, especially in distant countries, whence complaints arrived but seldom, always weakened, and, as it were, grown too old from the time that was taken up in their reaching home, and from the different channels through which they were obliged to pass before they could arrive at their destination.

What sensation could, in fact, be produced, in the offices of VERSAILLES, by remonstrances couched in a simple style, supported by incontestable facts and claims, but arriving under the same cover as the accounts of a man whose power and salary had increased at the expense of him who preferred the complaint? Pages of writing, concerning objects of no importance, appeared alone worthy of occupying a few moments; and simple, but rational representations dictated



tated by justice, the interest of commerce and navigation, thrown aside, remained unnoticed as well as unanswered.

And what was the period chosen for treating an estimable old man with odious injustice? That in which the sea-port towns of the LEVANT were inundated by a crowd of young men sent by the French government, for the purpose of there discharging important functions, in which it is scarcely possible to effect any good, whatever merit we may suppose in those who are invested with them, if they have not a knowledge of the manners and customs, indispensable in a country where it is sometimes dangerous, and always prejudicial, to be ignorant of them. On the other hand, how could it be imagined that the consul-general at SMYRNA, at the distance of upwards of sixty leagues, and without any direct communication, could superintend the number of affairs of every kind, which daily occurred at ARGENTIERA? Accordingly those consuls, more just than the government, relied entirely on their agent for the trouble of settling them. Contenting themselves with a considerable salary, a small part of which arose from a  
dilatatory

dilatory and revolting reduction in the moderate stipend of M. BREST, they knew that no one would act better than he, and they did not interfere, in any respect, in his administration.

In fact, it would have been a difficult matter to combine with a long habit of the commercial and maritime affairs of the LEVANT, a more extensive knowledge of the tastes and customs of the different nations by which it is inhabited or visited, and a more merited consideration. Equally esteemed by the French navy, by the European merchants settled in TURKEY, and by the navigators attracted thither by trade or war, M. BREST enjoyed general esteem. The Turks regarded him as the most upright of men, and the Greeks entertained for him the highest veneration. Confidence attended him; born as it were the arbitrator of the frequent disputes which arose in seas resorted to by different nations, his decisions were followed without appeal, as without murmur; his truly patriarchal authority made him a father, a beloved ruler; and the French flag, which floated above his house, although insulated, and without means of protection, was no where more respected than at ARGENTIERA.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

*Village or town of Argentiera. — Houses. — Fleas. — Festival of the exaltation of the holy cross. — Inhabitants of Argentiera. — Convent of Capuchins. — Picture which was found there. — Grand Vicar. — Period of the construction of the present town of Argentiera. — Greek churches. — Vaivode. — Situation of the Greeks of Argentiera. — Their agriculture. — Barley. — Wine. — Domestic animals. — Water.*

THE only inhabited place in the Island of ARGENTIERA is on the summit of a mountain of rocks, the ascent to which is by a very difficult road. It is hard to say whether this place should be called a town or a village. Were we to pay attention only to the small number, and above all to the wretched construction of the houses, it would be most assuredly no more than a bad village; but it is surrounded by high walls and secured by two gates, and this circumstance

gives it some appearance of a town and even of a city.

Be this as it may, it is a poor place, the houses of which, ill-built, are still kept in worse order: several are falling into ruins, and not one, but presents, as it were, the stamp of wretchedness and the exterior of poverty. They are small, narrow, and by no means lofty; they consist only of two apartments, one of which, low and dark, has every appearance of a den, and the other is above it: the ascent to the latter is by a few steps placed on the outside, and the only door that it has, opens on the landing-place of this sort of stair-case, without a balustrade and without a balcony. Openings, which which are closed by wooden shutters, supply the place of sashes, and the ground serves as a floor or pavement. Accordingly there perhaps is no place in the world where there are so many fleas, particularly during the winter, as in these rude dwellings, especially in those which have not been occupied for some time; and the lodging which I hired was of that number: in other respects, ARGENTIERA has this in common with other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, where the buildings are no better. The multitude of those insects

is



is really extraordinary; one is covered and devoured by them; they spread themselves even over, and slip into the hair, which I had not observed elsewhere. It is asserted that they are still more numerous in the houses inhabited by nurses, because, it is said, they are attracted by the smell of the milk.

These houses, so paltry, have by way of covering a bad flat roof, consisting only of a sort of wooden hurdle, on which earth is spread and beaten. Stormy showers frequently penetrate it, and induce the necessity of loading it with fresh earth, which does not long secure the inside of the house. In lieu of exerting greater care and intelligence in the construction of these roofs, the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, a people long addicted to superstition, prefer relying on heaven for the preservation of their dwellings. On the eve of the festival of the exaltation of the holy cross, it is an ancient custom to sweep and clean nicely the flat roofs of the houses; when, towards the evening, the bells of the churches begin to ring, the inhabitants there draw large crosses; and these figures are, to their credulity, the best means of preserving the top of their habitations from being penetrated by the winter rains.

The evening of this very day which precedes the exaltation of the holy cross, one of the greatest festivals of the Greek church, fires are kindled in the streets of the towns and villages of the ARCHIPELAGO, where the inhabitants are not restricted by the presence of their tyrants. They all, great and little, pass thrice over these fires, at the same time reciting prayers, by which they implore, from divine assistance, the preservation of their health during the following year, as well as plentiful vintages. But, in order that these prayers may have all the efficacy which they expect from them, they seriously assert that there must be in the fires some parts of the sesamum-plant.

A single street makes the circumference of the town or village of ARGENTIERA. People who are as badly lodged as the Greeks of this island, were not likely to think of paving their street, which, in rainy weather, is a long heap of deep mud; humidity, water itself then finds its way into the rooms of the ground floor, which are almost subterraneous, and renders them habitations equally unwholesome and inconvenient.

It is within this enclosure of wretchedness that about two hundred Greek families take

take up their residence. There were in my time but two Frenchmen: the consul or agent, and another Provencal, who served as a pilot to ships of war of different nations, which the protection of their commerce brought into these seas. There were no other Catholics than the families of these two Frenchmen; the remainder of the inhabitants followed the religious principles of the Greek church. This small number of Latin Christians no longer required the care of several ministers. Some Capuchins, who had established themselves there formerly, had abandoned their *hospice*, built on the outside of the town. This house was in ruins, and every thing that the Capuchins had left there was become the prey of the people of the country and of strangers. I also saw there a very fine picture, which had not excited the cupidity of ignorant depredators, but which had great merit; it represented a miracle which the monks of the TRINITY, occupied, as is well known, with the redemption of Christian slaves in the Mahometan countries, relate to have happened in BARBARY. Some of these monks, having learned that there existed in the hands of the inhabitants of BARBARY an enormous cru-

cifix in bronze, arising from the plunder of some Christian ship or settlement, did every thing in their power to obtain it; they succeeded in this only by promising to give a weight of silver equal to that of the cross. It is the moment when the scales are brought into the presence of the officers of justice and of an immense crowd, that the painter of this picture has chosen. The crucifix is on one of the scales; bags of silver coin, which the pious zeal of the Trinitarians had had so much difficulty to collect, are lying on the ground; one of these friars, on his knees, is beginning to empty one of them into the other scale, and scarcely are a few pieces, equivalent to the value of the copper crucifix, come out of it, than the equilibrium of the scales is established. The grateful admiration towards heaven, depicted on the countenance of the friars, the stupid and stern surprise on the faces of the natives of BARBARY, the tone of truth which reigns in a group composed of a multitude of details, together with the beauty of the colouring, announce a masterly pencil, and made this picture a valuable work. The consul assured me, that an English traveller had offered the Capuchins to give them as many sequins

as



as it could hold, placed-beside each other on the canvas of the picture; and these monks, who set so high a value on its possession as to reject such considerable offers, ended by abandoning it, and giving it up to the dust, and to the outrages of gross and ignorant people. I had no difficulty in obtaining from the consul authority to rescue this fine work from approaching annihilation, and to bring it to FRANCE. It is there in fact, but I cannot tell where; for it was taken from me some time before my arrival, without my being able to discover since what was become of it.

The small church, or the chapel of the Capuchins, likewise served for the Catholics of ARGENTIERA; but this temple partook of the general wretchedness; the most simple decorations were there wanting, and the ornaments, as well as the linen necessary for the altar, were falling into tatters.

A secular priest, born in the Island of SCIO, and who had studied at ROME, still performed divine service in this chapel. He assumed the title of grand vicar, and pretended to be invested with all the powers of the bishops in the Islands of MILO and ARGENTIERA, which, according to him, were

not in the dependency of any bishopric, and formed for him a little district, over which he exercised spiritual supremacy; and, in truth, his eminent dignity did not fatigue him much; for there no longer existed but a single Catholic in the former of those islands. All his functions were limited to saying the mass of the consul; and, by this trifling duty, he compensated for the protection which the French government granted him, as well as to the bishops and other Latin priests scattered throughout TURKEY.

The priest of ARGENTIERA was very proud of his nominal bishopric; he suffered no opportunity to escape of speaking of it, and particularly of inserting in the small number of acts which he had to write, and which he increased designedly, the formula *nullius diæcesis*\*, the declaration of his spiritual independence. With the exception of this little pride, which, in other countries besides the EAST, not unfrequently replaced evangelical modesty, M. MARCOPOLI, this is the name of the ecclesiastic, was cer-

\* *Belonging to no diocese*: thus are called the districts which are not subject to the jurisdiction of any bishop, and where chapters or ecclesiastical dignitaries discharge episcopal functions.

tainly the best man in the world; intelligent and anxious to acquire knowledge, he communicated with much complaisance that which he possessed respecting his own country; he was extremely useful to me during my travels. I had conceived for him much esteem and friendship, and I learnt with concern that, a short time after my departure from the LEVANT, he had sunk under a long illness.

His ordinary dress consisted of a black cassock, like that of our priests, a broad and high black cap of an equal width from one end to the other, and a pair of whiskers. He was respected by the Turks and Greeks; but for this respect he was indebted to the protection which he received from FRANCE; a protection which was then of very great weight in countries where our nation enjoyed considerable influence and many exclusive advantages.

The town of ARGENTIERA is very modern; its construction goes no farther back than 1646. A tradition, preserved among the present inhabitants, informs us that it was begun by some Greek fugitives from the Island of SIPHANTO, who kept themselves concealed, for some time, in a wood which then

then covered its site. These Greeks had brought with them in their flight an image of the Virgin, and they built houses in the place where the representation of the mother of God had been pleased to stop with them, and to preserve them from the attacks of their enemies.

Several Greek churches or chapels, scarcely possessing more riches than that of the catholics, are built behind the village. They all have, above their portal, little bells, which are frequently in motion. But, on a miserable and insulated land, their sound scares not the Mussulmans, and they have disdained to take away from a handful of Greeks, whose situation rendered them little worthy of attention, a privilege which they refuse with severity in almost all the parts of their empire, and which is of great value in the eyes of people, whose whole christianity consists in exterior practices.

A Greek of ARGENTIERA itself, and sometimes of a neighbouring island, goes every year to CONSTANTINOPLE, to purchase the right of oppressing his countrymen, under the title of *vaixode*. This place, which answers to that of intendant, is a post which is put up to auction, and sold to the highest bidder.



bidder. The islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, where the Turks do not command in person, have the same form of administration; the vaivode there collects the public revenues, imposes arbitrary fines; in a word, torments his fellow-citizens by as many exactions and acts of injustice as could be committed by the most severe and most covetous Mussulman officer. With the exception of ill usage, of excesses of an unbridled violence, in which the Turkish commandants sometimes indulge themselves, towards a people whom they consider as a horde of slaves and reprobates, the vaivodes accompany their temporary functions with so much harshness and rapine, that the Greeks have most frequently to repent being governed by a man of their own nation.

And this cruel insensibility, which suddenly converts one oppressed into a pitiless oppressor, is not peculiar to the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO; it is a vice common to all low and debased minds, which know no more of power than its abuses, and confound the duties of legitimate authority with the obligation of using extreme severity. The black slaves in the WEST INDIES had no overseers more rough and more inhuman than those of their own colour who had shared

shared their fate, and we shall long have present in our memory the horrors, the devastation, and the pillage which have been wantonly committed by a few men of the dregs of the people, invested, through the effect of an inconceivable delirium, with a terrible power, which could scarcely be equalled by that assumed by ferocious usurpers.

The miserable state of ARGENTIERA was not, I was told, carried to the pitch in which it is at the present day. I was assured that, before the war between the Russians and the Turks, during which the former came from their northern countries by routes, the possibility of which the ignorance of the latter had not been able to discover, and established in the ARCHIPELAGO itself their station, their magazines, and their cruises, whence they threatened the capital of the Ottoman empire, this country enjoyed greater comfort. But, during this struggle between the Russians and the Turks, the defenceless islands were given up to pillage and contributions, to which places that become the theatre of war are always exposed. And what crowd of ills must overwhelm those where the barbarity of the men, who are at war, adds to the

horrors of which it composes its dreadful train! Pirates, taking advantage of disorder and impunity, increased by their robberies the calamities of these countries; and ARGENTIERA, whose road could not fail to be the place of the ARCHIPELAGO the most frequented by ships of every sort, more exposed than any other island, must have been excessively impoverished.

Here was a general want of the necessary articles of life; neither corn, meat, nor vegetables were to be found. All that it was possible to procure consisted of barley-bread and a few eggs. The whole island, which is scarcely six leagues in circuit, is formed by mountains of rocks, and almost entirely steril. If we except a few fig-trees, scattered among the vineyards and fields, no tree enlivens with its verdure a rugged and arid soil, formerly shaded by forests, and where, more recently, still grew in abundance the tree whose fruit furnishes the most useful, as well as the most savoury of oils. These latter species of plantations, which constitute the wealth of a country whose climate is favourable to them, were, at ARGENTIERA, and on some neighbouring lands, the prey of flames, directed by the  
devastating

devastating hand of war, during the long continuance of hostilities between the Venetians and the Turks.

All the present industry of the Greeks of this island is reduced to the culture of a little cotton, some barley, and a few vines. When a person wishes to eat other bread, he is obliged to send for wheat from countries more fortunate. During the winter, boats touch here loaded with biscuit; their cargo is presently sold; for people, constantly reduced to barley-bread, find a sort of treat in a food dry and hard, but more relishing.

It is not that the bread which is made at ARGENTIERA, and in almost all the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, with barley-meal, is not good; the people of these countries scarcely eat any other. I lived on it a long time, and not only found in it no disagreeable flavour, but it appeared to me well-tasted and relishing. In all the EAST, this bread, of pure barley, is a very common aliment; the Hebrews made a great consumption of it; and there is every reason to presume, that anciently, as in our days, the culture of barley, and its use as daily food, would not have been spread so generally in countries where wheat grows in abundance,  
if



if the bread which is made from it had been reckoned a coarse and even disgusting food, like the same bread in our northern departments. On my return to my own country, I wished to compare the barley-bread which, in years of scarcity, is sometimes made in our villages, with that which I had so frequently eaten without disgust in the LEVANT; and I found that, independently of its colour, much blacker, it was considerably heavier and really bad. Want alone can command the use of it; therefore, the barley of warm climates must yield a meal more savoury than in our countries. Perhaps too, this grain, which among us is not, commonly, destined for the subsistence of men, has not obtained the same attention as wheat in its grinding, and being made into bread; and, perhaps, better attended to, it would ultimately furnish bread, which would come near the goodness of the barley-bread of the EAST.

The wine of ARGENTIERA is not so good as that of several surrounding islands; and this defect of quality proceeds, no doubt, only from bad management, since the soil is as fit as in those other countries for the culture of the vine. I am even astonished that

that the inhabitants contrive to make wine; for, no sooner are the grapes ripe, than they eat them in such great quantities, that it appears likely that there would no longer be any remaining, whose juice may be expressed; and these sort of partial and anticipated vintages are also one of the causes of the mediocrity of the wine, for which are reserved none but the grapes the least ripe and of the worst appearance.

However, the Island of MILO, which is very near, furnishes the wine which is commonly drunk at ARGENTIERA; very good sheep are also thence procured. The inhabitants of ARGENTIERA possess only flocks, which are as pitiful as every thing that surrounds them. A few miserable asses, a small number of hogs, and some fowls, are the only domestic animals that are there to be seen; and if they had not the resources which the sea presents for fishing, and that very limited one of fowling, it would be a difficult matter to live on an island which is almost in want of every thing. Water even is not here common; here are no rivers, no rivulets, nor springs; no other than cistern water is drunk. A marsh of miry water, which is at the entrance of the village

village towards the sea, is the only watering-place where the small number of animals that are here fed can quench their thirst; its muddy banks are constantly enlivened by wagtails; those restless birds diffuse life and gaiety in places where every thing inspires melancholy, where every thing seems ready to be annihilated under the weight of penury and oppression.

## CHAPTER XXV.

*Names of the Island of Argentiera. — Silver mines. — Cimolian earth. — Its properties; its use in the arts; the utility which might be derived from it for our manufactures; facility with which it might be procured; its nature. — Volcanoes. — Thermal waters. — Their properties; manner in which the Greeks make use of them; their situation. — Bluish substance which covers the surrounding rocks. — Stinking lake. — Grottoes. — Mountain. — Birds. — Kedros. — Oil of Kedros. — Different nature of the mountains. — Praise. — Excavations. — Wild artichokes. — Semena. — Petrified wood. — Lentisk. — Saffron. — Manner of selling it. — Its price.*

IF the little Island of ARGENTIERA neither affords the comforts nor conveniences of life, Nature has made it an interesting place, from its situation, and the substances which it contains in its bosom, or which it produces spontaneously on its surface. The ancients named it

it *KIMOLOS*; they were also acquainted with it under the name of *ECHINUSSA*, *VIPER ISLAND*\*, on account of the great quantity of those reptiles which it fed, at a time when, little frequented by men, it was covered only by rocks, forests, or brambles.—The Greeks still call it at this day *KIMOLI*. The Europeans discovered there silver mines, whence has arisen the denomination of *ARGENTIERA*, by which they have not since ceased to distinguish it.

Those mines are abandoned; it is even probable that they never were very productive, which may have occasioned the working of them to be renounced. It is not known at what period they were open, nor at what other they were deserted. The inhabitants have not preserved the remembrance of either, and they have taken good care not to make any attempt that might give the Turks reason to suspect the existence of a precious metal: this would have been to them a new and inexhaustible source of extortion and wretchedness. Under an odious tyranny, people do not become rich with impunity; imminent danger accompanies

\* *Cimolus quæ Echinussa*.—PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xii.



whatever may fix attention and excite cupidity; and they are so reduced as to consider distress a desirable blessing.

It appears that the principal mine, whence silver was drawn, is on a lofty cape, opposite to the little Island of SAN GEORGIO. The Russians, during their long stay in the ARCHIPELAGO, attempted to work them anew. I also know that M. DE LACLUE, formerly a captain in the French navy, made several trials in that way; but these attempts and these trials have demonstrated, that the quantity of the mineral was too small to cover the cost of the working, and it is undoubtedly to the same cause that we must attribute the ancient desertion of them. It might, nevertheless, be possible that, by pushing the labours to a greater depth than has been hitherto done, adventurers might meet with veins more rich and an ore more abundant, which might indemnify them for the expenses, and yield a profit; but speculations of this nature should be deferred to other times, in countries where, through the effect of a strange barbarism, national riches become the scourge and the ruin of individuals, and where the mass of earth and rocks, which cover

cover these gifts of Nature, cannot be composed of strata too thick.

The sea washes the foot of this mountain, which is said to contain silver. There it is that the islanders go to supply themselves with an argillaceous substance, diluted by the waters, and which serves them in lieu of soap for washing their linen. The ancients knew it by the name of *terra Cimolia*, from that of *KIMOLOS*, which they had given to the island where it is to be found. It has been confounded with other different mineral substances. There is no work on mineralogy that does not make mention of Cimolian earth; but in all there exists, on this subject, an equal confusion of words and things. In like manner as the name of *terra sigillata*, which was nothing more than a generic designation, given to various substances on which impressions, seals, &c. are applied, has been indifferently attributed to calcareous earths, to boles, and to clays; the name of *terra Cimolia* has also been extended to some species of fuller's earth, and even to boles.

I have convinced myself that the true Cimolian earth of the ancients, that which is drawn from *KIMOLI* or *ARGENTIERA*, and which is very different from all the

analogous substances with which it has been confounded, is not at all known in FRANCE, unless, perhaps, by a few curious persons. On my return to PARIS, I visited the warehouses of the druggists in the *RUE DES LOMBARDS*; I there asked for Cimolian earth, and I was at one time shewn Armenian bole; at another, reddish Lemnian earth; and lastly, figillated Maltese earth. None of the traders of that rich quarter, who all probably had an idea of Cimolian earth, knew how to distinguish it; and, on seeing the specimen which I produced, they acknowledged that it was unknown to them.

Without admitting all the medicinal properties, attributed to the earth of ARGENTIERA by the ancients, who set a high value on it, and frequently used it in medicine\*, it has some more real, which ought to have rescued it from the oblivion into which it has fallen for many ages. It is a *smectis*, a natural soap, which costs only the trouble of taking it up at the place where Nature has formed it. Dissolved in water, this sub-

\* Respecting the virtues of Cimolian earth, see PLINY'S Natural History, book xxxv. chap. xvii; DIOSCORIDES, book v. chap. cxxxiii; GALEN, Theophrastus a Nonni epitome de curatione morborum, &c. &c.

stance,

stance, for a long time, maintains its saponaceous froth and bubbles, like common soap. Most of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO make use of no other substance for washing linen, and they have observed that it was better bleached when they employed sea-water for dissolving this earth, the present name of which is *pylo TSINNIAS*, that is, *TSINNIAS* clay, because the Greeks call *TSINNIAS* the place whence it is taken. It is put on board boats, which convey it to the other islands, and to different countries of the LEVANT. That which the sea-water has penetrated is taken, and formed into little oblong masses, which are suffered to dry. Experience has, undoubtedly, taught the Greeks, that the earth, thus moistened, was preferable to that which is dry and hardened, of which the same mountain is entirely composed; never do they take any above the line washed by the waves. Accordingly these sorts of cakes, formed with Cimolian earth, always contain a strong dose of marine salt, foreign to the earth, and with which the sea impregnates it. Cimolian earth is also very fit for taking out spots of grease from woollens or silks: it is sufficient to soften a piece of it in common water, and to spread

it on the place spotted; it is suffered to dry, then it is reduced to dust by rubbing it with a brush; the spot is effaced without the gloss or colour being impaired. Its effect is more certain than that of all the stones for taking out spots. Several persons, among whom I have distributed the small quantity which I had brought home, have made the trial with success; but it must be observed that it absorbs none but greasy substances, and that it is useless for other spots. It also cleans extremely well the sword-belts, the shoulder-belts, and buff accoutrements of troops. The shoemakers of the LEVANT make use of it for gluing leather and skins, and its tenacity occasions it to be employed, in the same countries, as a glue fit for different uses. But this substance might become, for our manufactures, of an utility greater and more general. PLINY mentions that the Romans used it for the scowering of woollen cloths. The *lex metella*, of which the censores C. FLAMINIUS and L. ÆMILIUS were the authors, prescribed the order in which fullers were to make use of the substances which they employ, and Cimolian earth was intended to set off the true and valuable colours, and to revive the lustre of those which the fumes of sulphur had darkened.



kened\*. The testimony of the ancients and my own observations leave no doubt respecting the advantage which might be derived from the use of Cimolian earth in the fulleries, and the cleansing of wool. Means would probably be found to employ it with advantage in other arts ; and every thing inclines me to think that, by introducing it into FRANCE, we should find in it other useful properties. The carriage alone would be attended with some expense ; it would cost nothing to take the Cimolian earth from the foot of the mountain, where it is moistened by the sea ; the vessels which frequent the LEVANT might easily ship it, to serve them as ballast ; so that we should have, at a very low price, a useful and inexhaustible substance.

I have said that I considered this mineral substance, which is of a whitish gray, heavy, fat, and saponaceous, as a species of *smectis* or *smectites*, which does not appear to contain metallic particles. A learned traveller, who, like me, has examined the Cimolian earth in the Island of ARGENTIERA, affirms that this substance, very abundant, but little

\* *Veros autem et pretiosos colores emollit Cimolia, et quodam nitore exhibirat contristatos sulphure.*—PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. xxxv. cap. xvii.

known, is only a flow and gradual decomposition of porphyries, occasioned by subterraneous fires. "I have brought home," says OLIVIER, "specimens of every state through which that earth passes. This " observation " will, no doubt, be interesting to mineralogists, and will make them acquainted with " the origin of a substance till now so little " known\*." I confess that I am at a loss to comprehend how porphyry, on which fire makes no impression, can be decomposed by the effect of volcanoes, and reduced to a greasy and saponaceous substance. Another circumstance perplexes me: this is, that Cimolian earth is acted on by acids, which occasion it to enter into a state of fermentation; whereas these same acids produce no such effect on porphyry. These difficulties, foreseen by OLIVIER, are cleared up, no doubt, in his theory, with which I am as yet acquainted only by the slight sketch that he has presented of it in the Report which I have just quoted; and his talents and his ex-

\* Report of travels, performed by order of the French government, in the *Ottoman Empire, Egypt, and Persia*, during the first six years of the Republic, read to the National Institute, by Citizen OLIVIER.—*Magasin Encyclopédique du premier Germinal*, an vii. No. 22, page 198.

tensive knowledge in natural history inspire too much confidence to doubt that, by destroying every objection, he has grounded his opinion on certain bases and incontestable facts.

The Island of ARGENTIERA is nothing but a group of volcanic substances. It exhibits on all sides indications of those great fires which Nature feeds in the bowels of the earth; every thing there presents the image of a vast combustion; and it is probable that these subterraneous fires, whose action has shewn itself externally, and has imprinted on the soil violent commotions, which, combined with the effort of the waters, may have contributed by immense depressions to insulate it, are still burning with activity at great depths, and threaten it again perhaps with fresh convulsions.

In several places, the rocks are calcined; the productions of these volcanoes are frequently met with, and OLIVIER has there discovered pozzolana, as well as at MILO and at SANTORIN\*. Hot and smoking waters still attest there the existence of a subterraneous fire in full activity: they issue from

\* See the Memoir before quoted.

a rock near the sea, on the north-west part of the island. The heat of these waters is so powerful, that a person cannot hold his hand in them; and in an instant eggs are boiled hard. They deposit a sediment of a yellow ochre; when cooled, they assume a whitish tint, and their flavour is of an extreme tartness. I plunged into this burning and mineral spring an aërometer; it marked five degrees, and the same instrument gave but one degree, put into the water, which is considered as the best in the island, that of the consul's garden, after it had been purified by remaining in large earthen jars.

These thermal waters are reckoned, among the Greeks, to be very well calculated for curing rheumatism, sciatica, and other disorders of that nature, by steeping in them linen cloths which are applied to the parts affected. I have been told of the wonderful effects of applications of this sort, and I have had no difficulty in believing them, as the waters of ARGENTIERA must be very active. I do not know even whether the method of partial applications which are made of them, and only on the parts affected, be not more efficacious than total immersion or baths, as prescribed by our physicians in the thermal waters

waters of our countries. Does not the action of the remedy, spread over the surface of the whole body, lose some of its energy with respect to the part affected; and does not its impression prevent, or at least diminish the effect expected from it for re-establishing, in one single part, the circulation of the humours, and curing local sufferings? Long experience, tradition which is as old perhaps as the times when physicians, more full of observation than learning, dictated, in ancient and brilliant GREECE, rules from which sound practitioners are still afraid to deviate, have perhaps taught the modern Greeks the method of employing, on the very spot, thermal waters as a topical application rather than as a bath. It appears to me, indeed, more natural and more suitable to the species of complaints which it is meant to cure; and as it cannot be attended with any inconvenience; and as, besides, other nations practise it with success, I recommend to physicians, who disdain not to employ the curative means of which they are not the authors or the partisans, and the patients who seek relief, to adapt this procedure with our thermal waters.

Yet



Yet I shall not tell them what the Geeks assert of the spring of hot waters of ARGENTIERA: that it is sufficient to make use of reiterated applications, during a single day, to be delivered from rheumatic pains of the most inveterate nature. Whatever efficacy we may attribute to them, whatever influence we may grant to climate on disorders more frequent and more obstinate in our northern countries, so expeditious a cure is scarcely probable, when we observe that these disorders occasion, among us, the despair of physicians, and still more that of patients.

However, the Greeks, who always blend in their actions some superstitious practices, recommend to persons who take a trip to the waters, to leave there a part of the garments which covered them, a piece of shirt, of drawers, of waistcoat, &c. because, say they, the disorder remains on the very spot with these fragments of clothes.

The place where these thermal waters of ARGENTIERA are situated, affords no accommodation to those who wish to go thither. The visiter arrives there by a very difficult road; he finds no shelter against the heat of the sun; not a hut, not a single tree; scarcely is there in the neighbourhood a  
space

space sufficiently level for a few persons to be able to sit down, all this district being nothing more than the summit of a mountain, formed of prominent and pointed rocks. But a thing very remarkable, and which is interesting to mineralogy, is, that all the stones of the environs are covered with a stratum of a mineral substance of a bluish colour, which presents a very singular appearance.

Another trace of an extinguished volcano is to be remarked not far from the thermal waters, on the sea-shore, and in following the coast towards the north. This is the mouth or crater of an ancient volcano, which, for a long time, exhaled infectious vapours, whence the modern Greeks have called it *vromo limno*, that is, *stinking lake*. This gulf is, properly speaking, in our days, only a lagoon of the sea, which no longer diffuses a bad smell. Remote from every habitation and extremely solitary, wild ducks come frequently to rest themselves on its tranquil waters, and it is uncommon not to find some there during the winter.

By the side of this lake, to the north, are met with several grottoes or caverns cut in

the rock, and which appear to have served as habitations. In one, there is a spring of good water, which, in this retired spot, is useless to the inhabitants of ARGENTIERA. They assert that these excavations served their ancestors for melting the iron ore which they drew from the neighbouring mountains. A narrow recess of the sea permitted boats to land on this coast, and it is to be presumed that, if the roadstead of ARGENTIERA had not become the general rendezvous of all the vessels which navigate in the seas of the LEVANT, the present inhabitants would not have abandoned the west coast, where they would have found a soil less ungrateful, small coves fit for the reception of their boats, and a copious spring. But, among civilized nations, commerce is an irresistible allurements which hurries away men to places where it makes its appearance, and frequently induces them to forsake real advantages, to run after chimeras, which corrupt at the same time that they enrich.

This cove, where is situated the stinking lake of which I have just spoken, is formed to the north by a large elevated mountain, which is cleft and separated from itself, in its middle, throughout its whole height. One  
half

half no longer exists, and has been carried away or swallowed up by the waves; the part which remains presents a cut nearly perpendicular, and at the same time a little concave, entirely composed of a gray stone, calcareous, and of a consistence by no means solid. It is this softness of the stony substance of which it is formed, that has occasioned its falling away. In fact, incessantly beaten at its foot by the waves, and loaded at its summit by the weight of the lands soaked by the rains, it has been unable to resist those two powers acting in a contrary direction, and has necessarily opened and separated.

The hill, at the foot of which is the cove, is sloping and covered with a thick stratum of mould, on which grow more shrubs and plants than on every other spot in the island. In this solitude, which would not be one, if the population of the countries, subject to a government which is the most unfavourable to it, was not diminishing instead of increasing, I found a quantity of birds assembled, a living homage paid to the fertility of this district. I there saw a great number of thrushes of the large species,

together with blackbirds, linnets, petty-chaps, partridges, a woodcock, &c. &c.

At some distance, and in the north north-east quarter of the island, facing the Island of SIPHANTO, is another district which is called *KEDROS*, because it is furnished with the species of tall junipers, which the modern Greeks call by that name\*. None of them are seen in the other parts of the island, and they enliven this quarter, the approaches to which are somewhat gloomy, from the light tint of the greenish white of their leaves, and the red of their berries, resembling small cherries. These tall shrubs yield no gum at ARGENTIERA; their wood, as well as their leaves pounded, have a very strong odour. The Greeks make use of the oil which they draw from the stem and the branches, for the cure of the itch. They select the oldest wood, and that most impregnated with sap, which is then a little blackish; they cut it into small pieces, which they put into an earthen pot, with a little hole pierced in its bottom; they close and cover with paste the lid of the pot; then kindle a fire all round it,

\* This is a variety of the juniper, which grows likewise in the southern countries of France. *Juniperus oxicedrus*.

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and the heat causes to trickle down, through the aperture in the bottom, the oil which issues from it, and which is received into a vessel placed underneath. This oil is thick, and yellow as saffron; it tinges with yellow the things that are rubbed with it; and the body of those who use it for curing themselves of the itch, is a long time before it is freed from this tenacious colour. It is, however, a very good remedy for that disorder.

It is seen that this oil is nearly the same as the *huile de cade*, which is drawn from the junipers of the south of FRANCE, and which, in our rural economy, is very commonly used for eradicating the mange of sheep and cattle. Oil of *Kedros* may acquire greater virtues through the influence of climate, and perhaps too from the manner in which it is extracted.

It is principally on the back of a lofty and steep mountain, at the foot of which is a narrow cove, that the greatest number of Kedros are found in the district which bears the name of those shrubs. The back of this mountain is covered with a rich and whitish earth, under which is a white and brittle rock; a multitude of pieces of lava, cinereous and brown, is scattered over the

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soil.

soil, and below, the beach is strewn with flints, black and burnt, some of which are of a prodigious size. The creek is formed on the right by a hill of calcareous rock, white, soft, calcined, and forming only one single mass, broken and shattered on all sides; to the left, by a mountain perpendicular on its three sides, of the same nature as the hill to the right: but, in lieu of the clefts, this is as if artificially wrought, on the naked fascia, in acanthus leaves, such as are seen on the chapiters of pillars. Close by the side of this latter mountain rises another, quite black and burnt, which forms a striking contrast with the whiteness of the former. These contrasts between grounds very near to each other, are to be found in several parts of the island, and it is pretty generally observed, that the mountains or hills which have more immediately experienced the action of volcanoes, are at present covered with earth; whereas those, the rock of which is white, are absolutely naked.

If, from the district of KEDROS, we continue to follow the coast, on the eastern shore of the island, we find a cove larger than those of which I have just spoken; an islet, somewhat lofty, lies in the middle; the water

is deep; and small vessels may anchor there; but as this place, which is named *PRASE*, is solitary, navigators are not fond of frequenting it. On the declivity of the mountain, which forms the head of the small haven of *PRASE*, are seen some grottoes, dug in the rock. The largest has a very wide entrance; its interior is spacious, and its extremity is walled up. The Greeks are ignorant for what use these excavations have been made; they know only that the wall in the inside of the large grotto was constructed, in order to close the opening of galleries which, they say, extend to a very considerable distance underground, and to prevent the flocks which take shelter in these caverns, from penetrating too far within them, and being there lost.

The environs of *PRASE*, on the side of *KEDROS*, furnish a great quantity of wild artichokes, which the inhabitants of *ARGENTIERA* go to gather, and eat with pleasure.

Another small harbour, fit only for the country barks, but extremely safe and quiet, is situated between *PRASE* and *SAN NICOLO*; it is called *SEMENA*. The coast there is in like manner without habitations; and to proceed thither from *ARGENTIERA* is a full  
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hour's journey, along a road excessively bad, from the quantity of rocks and stones with which it is covered. The point which bars the entrance of this haven to the south, is crumbled away in a great measure, and it appeared to me almost entirely composed of wood petrified in masses, or irregular strata. Petrifications of this sort are to be found in several other parts of the island, sometimes in blocks, sometimes in strata, and sometimes in detached pieces, &c.

The shrub the most common on the surface of the Island of ARGENTIERA, is the lentisk, called by the modern Greeks *skino cocco*. No other wood is there burnt, and from its fruit is expressed an oil which is good only for burning; however, the poor make use of it in their food. In other respects, this oil, which is called *skino lado*, is clear and of a beautiful gold colour, like the best olive oil. When it is two or three years old, it is, according to the Greeks, a very good topical remedy for rheumatic pains.

Saffron also grows naturally on the mountains, and between the rocks of the island. When it is in flower, poor people disperse to gather it, and it affords a little branch of trade for this miserable country. The man-

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ner of felling it, when it is dried, is not common in markets; it is weighed, but it is a hen's egg that serves as a weight. No attention is paid to the size of the egg, provided it have nothing extraordinary as to its dimensions: neither is it a consideration whether it be fresh or stale; it is necessary only that it be not boiled. It is, however, very certain that an egg weighs more when fresh; it is also evident that its size adds to its weight. The difference between a fresh egg and another of the same size that has been laid six days, is at least seven grains, and it may amount to twelve grains between eggs of various sizes. But the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO pay no attention to these differences, and the sale of their saffron has no other regulator than the weight of eggs.

When I was travelling in this country, the weight of an egg in saffron cost twenty-eight or thirty parats. The mean weight of common eggs, which we suppose to be five days old, is about an ounce, six drachms, and fifteen grains, or one thousand and thirty-nine grains. On the other hand, the TURKEY parat was, during the same period, valued at sixteen deniers *tournois*; it therefore results that the pound of dried saffron was, in 1778,



at ARGENTIERA, and in several other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, worth from about sixteen livres, seven sous, two deniers tournois, to seventeen livres, ten sous, six deniers. At the same period, the common price of the pound of saffron of GATINOIS, avoirdupois, amounted to from twenty-four to thirty livres tournois: when it was not of the first quality, it was sometimes sold for rather less; but there was almost always near twice the difference between the saffron of FRANCE and that of the LEVANT, although the latter, as is well known, is of a quality infinitely superior.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

*Women of Argentiera.—Calumnious stories of which they have been the subject.—Their morals.—Their dress.—Particular description of their garments.—Their occupations.—Cotton stockings and caps.—Occupations of the men.—Flocks.—The management of them.—Cheese.—Island of Polivo or Burnt Island.—Its productions.—Advantages of possessing it.*

EVERY one knows that the shores on which navigators land in great numbers, are not always the seat of virtue and modesty. When to this concourse of strangers, endeavouring, by a few transitory enjoyments, to make themselves amends for the difficulties and privations of voyages, are added the corrupting gold of Commerce, and the means of which it can dispose for seduction, deviations from virtue are more frequent, and morals border more on depravity. It is possible that formerly the Island of ARGENTIERA, possessed by Europeans, who there displayed

displayed the vices of inveterate corruption, and the necessary rendezvous of several ships which established their cruising-station in the ARCHIPELAGO, and the crews of which came thither to spend the produce of their rapine, and barter it away for pleasures, which cease to have charms as soon as they are purchased; it is possible, I say, and even rather probable, that this island may have then afforded scenes of gallantry sufficiently repeated to become the picture of licentiousness. But that this miserable country, without commerce, and almost without industry, should have been metamorphosed into a temple of voluptuousness; that navigators of all nations should come thither to pay their homages to VENUS, and there deposit their offerings; that travellers should there have run as many risks as TELEMACHUS in the Island of CYPRUS, and that they should even have come off with less glory than that young Greek, having no MENTOR to snatch them from so dangerous a place\*, these are unfaithful pictures, at best fit to be introduced into a romance, since they serve only to give birth to false ideas of a country respecting which

\* *Lettres Cabalistes du Marquis d'ARGENS*, vol. ii. Hague edition, 1770, page 108.

they convey images traced by exaggeration. TOURNEFORT had received the same impressions on the subject of ARGENTIERA; but he appears surprised not to find that pitiful country so corrupted as he had represented it to himself. "This island," says he, "is become quite poor, since the king no longer suffers any French privateers in the LEVANT. ARGENTIERA was their rendezvous, and they there spent, in horrible debaucheries, what they had just plundered from the Turks. The ladies took advantage of the circumstance; they neither are the most cruel, nor the most uncomely: this is the most dangerous shoal in the ARCHIPELAGO; but one must be very unskilful to strike on it\*." It is seen clearly, from this passage in TOURNEFORT's narrative, that that traveller speaks only of what he had read or heard, and not of what he himself saw on the spot: and not having had time to observe the morals of a country in which he, as it were, did no more than make his appearance, he sacrifices to his prejudices, by still throwing some disgrace on the private life of the women by whom it is inhabited.

\* *Voyage au Levant*, 4to edition, vol. i. page 141.

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But if such imputations appear evidently exaggerated, when we carry them back to periods already remote, they are truly calumnious when we apply them to the time present. It is an error of some modern travellers, prepossessed by the accounts of those who have preceded them. M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER, who has paid some attention to ARGENTIERA, has said nothing of the kind: he contents himself with speaking of the disbursements that the crews of Christian privateers, who formerly infested the ARCHIPELAGO with their robberies, came thither during the winter to make disbursements, for which they made the inhabitants pay very dear, from the vexations with which they tormented them. He also mentions a custom which these same privateer's men had established there, and of which our navigators still avail themselves at MADAGASCAR, that of solemnly marrying for the time of their stay in port; so that a new lover impatiently waited for the departure of a captain, in order to wed his wife, as soon as he should have set sail.\*

\* *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, folio, page 9.



It is very certain that this dissoluteness of morals, with which the women of ARGENTIERA are reproached with so much bitterness and injustice, cannot be imputed to those of our days. They are endowed with modesty and reserve, which are the ordinary appendage of the women of the EAST; and during a rather long stay which I made among them, I saw but one single instance of a glaring deviation from those virtues more rigidly observed in the LEVANT than elsewhere. An unmarried woman, who was no longer in her prime, but who had preserved some share of youth and beauty, without relations, and living alone, was rather forced than seduced by a young Frenchman; she had long opposed a warm resistance to the importunities of the most ardent passion. In the middle of the night, she heard near her bed her impetuous lover: the door had not been open; he had come down by the chimney. An attack so sudden and so unforeseen was successful, and attended with consequences too apparent. The *vairvode*, always on the watch for every thing that can increase his income, set up for the avenger of outraged morals; and imposed on this unfortunate victim of imprudent love a very heavy fine, which it was necessary

necessary to pay; nor could any entreaty obtain a mitigation of a penalty inflicted by a tyrant whom cupidity rendered inexorable.

Indeed, a punishment so severe announces not the general dissoluteness of morals, with which writers have endeavoured to tarnish the women of ARGENTIERA; and these lines which I have consecrated to their reputation, are no less the expression of a sentiment of justice than that of gratitude, for the attentions and tranquillity which I enjoyed in their country.

These women possess, in general, the advantages of shape and face; but they spoil them by the manner in which they dress themselves. It is certainly the strangest garb that can be imagined, and a woman must have many charms, for them not to disappear under garments so grotesque. The drawing which I give (*Plate VI.*) of this dress was made from a doll quite clothed and arranged in the country itself.

An Indian shawl, that is, a tissue of fine wool, and most commonly of a dark green with spots of a dull red and clouded with green, surrounds the head and forehead, and suffers nothing to be seen there but two little locks of smooth and black hair, which fall  
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on each temple. It is a luxury not only at ARGENTIERA, but in the other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO and in some other parts of the LEVANT, to add to these tufts of hair small curling feathers of a beautiful velvety and shining black, or rather of a very deep azure blue, which the males of certain species of wild ducks have on the rump, two on each side. These little feathers, a simple ornament, but which is not destitute of agreeableness, are carefully collected. The women place some of them under their shawl, and suffer their curling points to appear on the forehead and temples, where their metallic reflections throw a gentle and coloured lustre, which varies every moment according to the different lights under which they appear.

The hair is enveloped and braided with rose colour riband: this braid is rolled on the crown of the head, and confined with a small black riband; it is surmounted by a large streamer of red ribands. To the back of the head is fastened a long piece of silk, trimmed with a broad gold net lace, which falls and waves behind. On the neck is a collar of gold, jet, or pearls, from which hangs a cross. A broad piece of red velvet, covered with gold net lace, and bordered at  
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the top with a sky-blue riband, or a bit of gold or silver brocade, covers the breast and the throat, above another piece of cotton. A sort of silk apron, trimmed down its middle and below with gold net lace, is fastened beneath the stomacher, and reaches no lower than the knees; a red riband, in the form of a girdle, and one end of which falls down on each side, serves to confine the handkerchief which hangs on the left. The shift, which is, for these women, the richest article of their dress, made of silk, falls in front below the sort of apron which I have just mentioned; it is trimmed with rose colour riband, on which is applied the lace or open gold net work, which constitutes all the luxury of the garments. Poor women use tinsel, and sometimes coarse lace made with cotton thread. The shift comes no lower than the knees, below which are tied the strings of the cotton drawers, which all the women wear in the East. But the most extraordinary part of the dress is the sleeves of the shift, enormous sleeves, confined first on the fore arm with a rose colour riband, then turned up and fastened to the shoulder in such a manner as to be raised extremely high, so that the head appears buried and concealed on each

each side between the shoulders. These sleeves, open and trimmed with gold net lace, hang down in a point as low as the leg, and entirely cover the sides of the body. The same piece of velvet or brocade stuff worn on the breast is tied behind; a small silver lace cord falls on each shoulder, and three large streamers of riband are fastened across the back; that of the middle is bright blue; the other two are rose colour. Two thick pieces of cotton, in very close folds, hang down, at the same time increasing in width, the one over the other, along the back, as far as the middle of the thighs: these pieces of cotton are stiff, do not bend, and appear like little mattresses applied to the body of the person who is loaded with them. A rose colour riband, fastened to the upper piece, and tied in front underneath the apron, prevents it from rising.

It is not a merit in the women of ARGENTIERA, to have their legs slender and gracefully moulded; on the contrary, they employ no small degree of art to render them equally thick throughout all their length, and to give them the appearance of real posts. They put on several pairs of half stockings of different sizes, one over the other, in order to fill up



the small of the leg and make it even with the calf. As these parts are exposed to view as high as the knees, they take pains to adorn them; they are covered with a velvet stocking, and a small silver lace-cord is fastened to it before and behind. The covering for the feet consists of a sort of slipper of silk, brocaded with gold or silver, with a heel by no means high, a sole very thin, and the point sharp and turned up.

The dress which I have just described is that of parade: the women generally wear one more plain; but which, however, is composed of several pieces, more coarse and less ornamented; so that on festivals, as on working days, they alike appear shapeless masses of linen or cloth.

The habitual occupation of these women, so singularly clothed, is to spin cotton, and to knit it into stockings and caps. At home, as well as in the streets, they are seen with the spindle or the knitting-needles in their hand. They make use of a spindle, which is nothing more than an iron rod turned spirally in its middle, and the top of which is bent like a hook, in order to hold the cotton. Stockings, which they manufacture with much care, are, correctly speaking, the only trade

of their island. Navigators take them for their own wear, and in parcels: they are to be had at all prices, from twenty parats, or about twenty-seven sous, to four dollars, or ten or eleven livres the pair. The stockings of this latter price are very fine and excellent wear, as well as the knit caps, manufactured by the same hands; and it is, undoubtedly, to the prohibitions which clogged the trade of the LEVANT, that we must attribute the little knowledge that we had in FRANCE of these useful articles, which deserved to be introduced into the traffic that we carried on with those countries.

While the women spin and knit, the men engage in different kinds of employments. Some, proprietors of boats, navigate and trade in the ARCHIPELAGO during the summer, and return to pass the winter at home, and there enjoy in peace the fruit of their industry: others apply themselves to fishing, very few to killing game, and some to agriculture; the poorest class cut and root up the shrubs which grow on the mountains, and bring them, on the back of sorry asses, to the village, where their branches and winding roots are the only wood that is burnt for the dressing of food; lastly, others of the

same indigent class undertake to tend flocks of sheep and goats; for there are not, in this island, either oxen, or cows, or any other species of cattle.

I have already observed, that agriculture was at ARGENTIERA in the most wretched condition, although the island afforded several districts capable of yielding a rich produce; neither are the flocks very numerous. They are formed of sheep belonging to different persons: never do the animals which compose them approach the habitations; they are not at all acquainted with sheds; always straying from mountain to mountain, they are brought forth and live in the open air; some large caverns serve them as a shelter against storms, and their keepers share this shelter, as well as their wandering life.

These shepherds of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO are not hirelings; they are a sort of farmers, who receive ewes and goats from the inhabitants, on condition of furnishing them with a quantity of wool and cheese proportionate to the number of the animals, and to account for the ordinary produce of the ewes; so that, at the expiration of a few years, a man finds himself the possessor of a little flock, which has constantly furnished

an almost daily income, without having cost either trouble or expense. This method of breeding sheep is more advantageous to the proprietors and to the animals themselves, which are more healthy and more robust, and whose fleece is improved by this entirely agrestic life; but it cannot be adopted but in mountainous countries, where Agriculture has not extended her domain: in other places, that want might be supplied by extensive parks, enclosure in the open air, and, above all, by the proscription of low and swampy sheep-folds, such as are seen in several of our departments.

Most of the disorders by which our flocks are attacked, through the effect of humidity and corruption, are unknown in the LEVANT. Veterinary treatment, which is become among us a difficult art, because we have chosen that the diet of our animals, like our own, should deviate from the rules which Nature prescribes, would there be an art almost useless. Experience, that guide more sure than the inductions of medical theory, has made simple shepherds the physicians of their flocks, as they are their inseparable companions. They do not load themselves with drugs; Nature is at all the trouble of the preparations, and

their pharmacy is scattered over the very places which they traverse. The remedies are simple, like the complaints: I have remembered one which, among the shepherds of the EAST, is reckoned very efficacious in putrid diseases in sheep: this is swallow's dung, dissolved in water, and given as a drink.

It is also on the very mountains, and in the midst of their flocks, that the shepherds make, with the milk of ewes and goats, prepared in the open air in large brass vessels, little cheeses, formed in rush moulds, and of which the Greeks, strict observers of several Lents, make a great consumption. These cheeses are very good, salted, and preserved; but fresh, they are delicious.

A few inhabitants of MILO and ARGENTIERA have also flocks on the Island of POLIVO, which the Europeans call *BURNT ISLAND*, because the Venetians, during the long wars that they had to maintain against the Turks, destroyed by fire the olive-trees with which it was covered. Flocks are the only inhabitants of this island; it nevertheless deserves to have others. In fact, the quantity of olive-trees which there subsisted, indicates the goodness of its soil; and the small number which is still cultivated



cultivated on the west coast, opposite to ARGENTIERA, produces abundant crops.

POLIVO, or *BURNT ISLAND*, lies to the east of ARGENTIERA, and is separated from it only by a channel a quarter of a league wide. At the period of my travels, it belonged to different individuals of MILO and ARGENTIERA; but they were not in a condition, or rather they were afraid to turn it to account, lest they should attract the attention and extortions of the Turks. They were endeavouring to dispose of it; and, but for the difficulties which a Frenchman then experienced in establishing himself in TURKEY, I would have become the purchaser. The little produce which the possessors drew from it, rendered it an acquisition by no means expensive, and such that a few acres of land could not have been obtained in FRANCE at the same price. The island is, nevertheless, four or five leagues in circumference: culture might there be extended so as to leave but about the fourth of the soil, which, from its nature, would remain uncultivated. This consists of hills, partly covered by rocks, between which grow various plants and shrubs. These hills, although not cultivated, would not be unproductive; flocks would there find an

abundant food; lentisks and junipers would yield wood and oil. Nature has planted between the rocks bulbs of saffron, in the midst of other vegetable productions, useful, though wild. The very rocks likewise offer their tribute; in their bosom are found carnelians of several colours, but most commonly of a yellow orange colour; and agates, of a yellow and transparent gray, which may be considered as a species of sardonyx. An excavation, supported by posts, indicates ancient mineralogical labours, and it might be possible to renew them with advantage.

To the culture of various species of corn, cotton, &c. to the collection of wool, one might join the rearing of bees, which scarcely require any care in a climate in which they much delight; and it is well known that wax is, in the LEVANT, a very profitable article of trade. The situation of POLIVO at the entrance of the ARCHIPELAGO, in the vicinity of a great number of islands, forming a road, the common anchoring-place for vessels that navigate in these seas, would give birth to an infinite number of commercial speculations, which could not fail to be very productive. On the coast, facing ARGENTIERIA, are two coves, into one of which ships can enter. At  
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a trifling expenſe, one might build on the ſhore, and within reach of a ſpring of freſh water, a convenient habitation, whoſe poſition, though a little ſolitary, would be agreeable and pictureſque: one might there paſs, in comfort, and in pleaſant and uſeful occupations, a quiet and happy life; and when, after long travels and perſevering labours, I ſaw myſelf ſurrounded by all kinds of troubles and treacheries, I regretted more than once not having endeavoured to remove the obſtacles which oppoſed the acquiſition of the peaceful Iſland of POLIVO. In an abode neither too retired, nor too much expoſed to the noiſy agitations of ſociety, I ſhould probably have met with tranquillity and happineſs, from which a fatality, by no means common, has always kept me at a diſtance.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

*General observations on the manners and customs of the Greeks of the Archipelago.—Their mode of life.—Their mind extremely inclined to superstition.—Manner in which mothers correct their children.—Method practised in the delivery of women.—Attention paid, in the Archipelago, to new-born children.—Precautions taken concerning them.—Pretended influence of sinister looks on children, men, and animals.*

I HAD made of the Island of ARGENTIERA, and of the very neighbouring one of MILO, which will presently be spoken of, the spot whither I repaired after my different excursions in the ARCHIPELAGO. The number of European vessels which put in there, the residence of an agent of our nation, the tranquillity which there reigned, the greater facility of there obtaining certain information respecting countries where sincerity and truth are not prevailing virtues—every thing induced

duced me to return frequently to one of these two islands, and to make a stay there at several periods. There it was that I penned the notes and observations which I had collected, and which have served as materials for this work: it seems natural to me to insert them here; and although they, for the most part, refer to the inhabitants of several other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, as they are common to the Islands of ARGENTIERA and MILO, they are not at all misplaced in the articles which treat of those two countries. They consist of general observations on the manners of the descendants of a great people, at this day subjugated by a barbarous nation: it is the moral history of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO; and the picture which I am going to present of them will exempt me from repetitions that would become unavoidable, if I wished to speak in particular of several tribes scattered over all the eminences which tower above the surface of the ÆGEAN SEA, and on which the men, with the exception of a few shades, have the same qualities and the same customs. The reader will find, in this same picture, what is general in those customs and those qualities; and he will have nothing more to do than to visit rapidly with me the



other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, and there to remark the particularities which distinguish their physical state and the moral character of their inhabitants.

The life of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO is simple; luxury dares not make its appearance, because the tyrant is continually on the watch, and ready to fall on the produce of industry, as soon as it bespeaks riches somewhat considerable. The Greek gives himself up only by stealth to the speculations of commerce; and if they make any display through too great success, he trembles for his fortune, sometimes even for his life. Rural labours would destroy too much the effects of industry, a secret which he is forced to conceal with care: thence results that the fields are uncultivated, that the wretchedness of the country finds its way into the inhabited places, and that one seldom perceives there the signs of a dangerous opulence.

The Greeks of antiquity have been reproached with having a mind prone to superstition; this inclination has increased in proportion as Ignorance has shaded, with her gloomy wings, countries which the arts and sciences have not been able to secure from superstitious credulity. In the time of the  
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Greek emperors, this weakness appeared to have attained its highest pitch; the people were given, in a surprising manner, to prestiges, enchantments, and practices the most absurd; and it may be conceived whether, in our days, when Slavery, the most powerful promoter of the degradation of nations, has united her sinister efforts to an ignorance ever increasing, that old disposition to errors have not struck roots more deep and more numerous. The christian religion even is become, among this people, a new source of superstitions. That religion, of celestial origin, which men, and more particularly the ambition of priests, have spoiled, consists, for a Greek, only in ceremonies, in minute observances, in a multitude of practices. To him the sublime moral of the Gospel is nothing; and provided he fast scrupulously, pronounce words which he considers as magical, and be exact in ceremonies, even foreign to those of religion, he is persuaded that all his duties are performed, and that nothing can prevent him from giving himself up to excesses against society. It is not uncommon to see Greek pirates, addicted to all sorts of robberies, fancy themselves in

and order rebellion in the Mediterranean; full

full enjoyment of a safe conscience, because they strictly observe Lent, and recite orisons.

Among the customs of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, there are, no doubt, some which are derived from antiquity. The EAST is by no means the abode of frivolity, nor of a fickle and changing disposition; customs are there constantly maintained, and we love to find again, even in the most familiar details of private life, those with which we have been acquainted by the perusal of ancient works. It is, for example, still a custom of the mothers of these countries to whip, as in former times, their children with the flexible and elastic branches of the *agnus castus*.

If we examine the Greek of the ARCHIPELAGO in the most solemn periods of civil life, we see him always abandoned to the absurd caprices of ignorance, and executing the most whimsical things, with as much sincerity as seriousness. At his birth, he is surrounded by the whole train of superstition, and he remains accompanied by it during the course of his life. The manner in which he comes into the world is too singular, for me not to make express mention of it: we have every reason to be surprised that, among the great number of travellers who have visited the

the LEVANT, and particularly the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, no one has known the method which is there practised in the delivery of women, a method truly curious and extraordinary, but which our women will not, undoubtedly, be tempted to adopt. I had an opportunity of being present at the delivery of a woman of these countries; and as I am the first who has spoken of it, I shall enter into a few details on a subject so interesting to the history of man.

I shall first observe, that the young woman, at whose delivery I was present, was not more than eighteen years of age: she was tall, well made, of a strong constitution, and of a beauty which the Greeks of antiquity would have envied. The forerunners of child-birth manifested themselves at supper-time: the young woman was conducted to her chamber, whither I had permission to attend her. The midwife, a woman much advanced in years, and whose knowledge and experience were highly extolled, arrived, accompanied by a female assistant, almost as old as herself, but of a countenance less singular and less strongly marked. A painter, who might have wished to represent a sibyl, would not have been able to choose a better model;

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every thing in it announced the appearance of a forcerefs, and her answers to the questions which I asked her might, from their obscurity, pass for so many oracles. She likewise carried a sort of tripod, the use of which I was far from conceiving: this very singular article of furniture is not of one entire piece of wood. Two pieces, rounded and somewhat convex on the outside, are united at the acute angle, and support at their junction a flat piece, fit for sitting on: the whole is enveloped and very negligently trimmed with old linen-cloths, and supported by three legs, very low, and as rudely wrought as the rest, one of which confines the sort of stool to the angle, and the other two are placed under the two branches and towards their extremity. The first concern of the midwife was to cause the locks of the doors, boxes, trunks, and, indeed, every thing that could lock in the house, to be opened. This precaution of keeping every thing wide open, founded on a very whimsical analogy, is not, on any account, to be neglected, if it be wished that the delivery should experience no difficulties; and, through a consequence of this ridiculous prejudice, none but married women are suffered in it, virgins being absolutely banished.



banished. I was also informed, that if I wished to be present, I must determine to stay in the room till the delivery was completely terminated. This is a rule which no one can infringe. From the moment that the labour begins, those who are in the apartment can no longer leave it, nor can those who are without any longer enter it. The former incur even a sort of stain, which deprives them of all communication with other persons, till a priest, who is apprized on this subject, has given them his blessing, and freed them from the impurity which it is fancied that they have contracted.

In the mean time Nature began to act; the efforts which she excited, for hastening the birth of a new being, were increased and become more frequent; every thing announced an easy labour and a happy delivery. During the continuance of this action of the child on the mother, the latter did not remain idle; she was compelled to walk incessantly about her room: if pain, a little weakness, or faint-heartedness, made her desirous to take a moment's rest, the two old women supported her under the arms, and obliged her to walk; and, in truth, she appeared to me to have no inclination to do so. When the pains came on,

they made her lean and bend herself forward on her bed, and the midwife, placed behind her, strongly pressed her sides with both her hands, which she held there against them till the pain was over, and that soon happened: then the walking recommenced, till a fresh pain interrupted it, and occasioned the woman to be put in a situation to experience fresh pressures from the hands of the midwife.

I am not sufficiently versed in the knowledge of the mechanism which Nature employs on this occasion, to determine, whether the method of pressing strongly the hands on the lower part of a woman's back, at the very moment of her pains, be a salutary or hurtful method; all that I can affirm is, that it is generally in use in the countries which I am describing, and in which deliveries are almost always fortunate. I shall add, that I observed from them a good effect, at least in appearance; for the pains were not long, although succeeding each other rapidly, and the young woman who experienced them did not seem much affected by them. However, having consulted on this point a physician who has acquired in our days a great name in the art of midwifery, he has disapproved  
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of this practice; which he considers as very vicious, and I give, as a note, what he has been pleased to communicate to me on this subject\*.

Could

*Paris, 13th Nivôse, year ix, (2d January, 1801.)*

\* After having, with no less pleasure than interest, not only heard but meditated on the observations which M. SONNINI has been kind enough to communicate to me verbally and in writing, respecting the proceedings employed before and after the delivery of the Greek women, I exclaimed, Oh! a thousand times happy are the countries where all the united efforts of routine, ignorance, and fanaticism, have not been able to succeed in disappointing the wish of Nature, in the exercise of the most important function of animal economy.

“ During the labours of child-birth, the midwives,” you say, Sir, “ make the patient lean and bend herself forward at every fresh pain, while the matron, placed behind her, presses her sides, with a view of assisting the labour.”

Your natural sagacity, Sir, will see the demonstration of so vicious a practice, and the absurdity of which the lights of reason alone had made you partly conceive, without the assistance of the principles of art.

The relative situation of the basin is such, that, when the woman is erect, the projection of the *sacrum*, or posterior part, is more elevated by three inches than the anterior part, or upper edge of the symphysis pubis. From this anatomical fact, you will judge, that the upper or large basin forms a very inclined plane, on which the full grown foetus is supported before by the straight muscles,

Could any doubt arise respecting this practice, unusual among us, every one will agree without difficulty that nothing is more cruel,

whose fastenings, direction, and tendinous interfections, sufficiently indicate the uses for which they are intended.

If a woman in labour be made to bend forward, what is the consequence? 1. The uterus, and the foreign bodies contained in its cavity, recede more or less from the basin. 2. All the abdominal muscles being, on account of this posture, in a complete state of relaxation, cannot oppose the fall of the belly of the woman in labour. 3. The orifice of the uterus being constantly opposed to the extremity of that viscus, the more the extremity is inclined forward, the more its orifice must be inclined in the same manner backward in the bend of the *sacrum*. 4. The natural pains of child-birth, or contractions of the uterus, having no efficacy but as long as the axis of the body of the child, parallel to that of the uterus, answers to the centre of the basin, it follows that, in cases of obliquity, the pains are lost, exhaust to no purpose the strength of the woman in labour, and render the delivery more or less laborious.

I therefore conclude, from experience and observation, that of all the situations taken by women in labour, the most vicious, the most diametrically opposite to the end that is proposed, is most certainly that to which the ignorance and the routine of the Greek matrons subject the Greek women. As for the efforts which they add to the viciousness of the situation, we may consider them as fresh obstacles to the delivery; and if these manœuvres do not increase the number of victims, it is not most assuredly the fault of the art.

nor

nor, at the same time, more contrary to the notions received, than the manner in which child-birth is terminated in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. Yet there is not, perhaps, any country on earth, where deliveries are more easy, more happy, and less attended by fatal accidents, than that in which every thing is, in a manner, resorted to for bringing about those accidents, and causing Nature to repent of the favours which she has lavished on the women, by decorating them with the brilliant forms of beauty, and granting them courage and strength to resist the violence employed towards them, at the period when the quality of mother comes to develop in their ardent soul new and precious affections.

But this sort of indulgence of Nature is the reward of a simple and regular life, still more than the effect of climate. A beautiful sky, an atmosphere which the severity of our hoar-frosts never condenses, which the gentle breath of spring-zephyrs incessantly warms, which salutary emanations impregnate with the principles of health and vigour, doubtless, contribute to the good fortune that the women enjoy of escaping the dangers which await them, and which are preparing for them. But in this, as on other occasions, physiologists have



granted too much to the power of climate; and when we wish to explain every thing, it is certain, that the temperature of a country frequently comes very opportunely to relieve from embarrassment him who has undertaken a task so difficult to be accomplished. And, in order not to deviate from my subject, I shall ask, how we should contrive to make the influence of a climate which, it is admitted, gives to the people who inhabit it the stature and the corpulence of vigour, agree with that other influence of the same climate, by which we suppose that the fibres and the flesh of the women there become softened, to render deliveries by no means painful? Are not strength and energy of the physical constitution on the one hand, softness and relaxation on the other, opposite and contradictory qualities, when we wish to impose them on the same object?

Vigour of constitution, which affords the faculty of passing with a firm step through the rugged career of life, is likewise to be found among the nations which live under a burning sky, and in the midst of the tribes which walk on a soil of snow and ice. The inhabitants of SENEGAL and of JALOFF are perhaps the handsomest as well as the strongest of

of men; and the negresses of the same countries, with a skin of a brilliant jet, with firm and elastic flesh, brings her children into the world with still greater facility than the Greek woman, and, nevertheless, preserves that solidity of form, that tone of fibres, the certain marks of strength and health. Whether we approach Hyperborean lands, or visit the Antarctic shores, which intrepid navigators have added to the chart of the world, we there see dispatch and ease in deliveries; and the women, like those of AFRICA, there preserve the just proportion of form.

It is not, therefore, the temperature of the atmosphere that gives to women that happy habit of body which procures easy delivery. Without disallowing that it may not be regarded in them as a secondary cause, it is an error to present it as the principal one, since, in its two extremes, it affords nearly the same results. Great heat, which, it is said, mollifies the flesh and relaxes the fibres, effects not those disagreeable changes only on the women who are not born in that country. It is on that account that the European woman, transplanted into the WEST INDIES, has soon the mortification to see her cheeks lose their colour, and her charms fade away; and that she

who is there born of European parents, has the complexion of a perfect white, indeed, but which, because it is uniform, without being animated by the soft blush of the rose, bespeaks languor, flaccidity, and weakness.

A cause more certain than that of the difference of climate, has produced the disparity which is observable in the constitution of different people. A long succession of moderation and temperance transmit, from generation to generation, the precious inheritance of a vigorous constitution, and preserve to the muscles and fibres the tension necessary for the support of the fleshy parts, and the regularity of the outlines. If, in our countries, beauty has so frequently to lament the loss of its dearest advantages; if, under the most fascinating exterior, it has no longer anything remaining but a mortifying disfiguration, it is to the irregular life, to excesses of every kind, the symptoms of which are transmitted and grow worse from age to age, that we must attribute these afflicting disorders. It is not astonishing that delicate and feeble beings, who have scarcely strength to exist, experience considerable embarrassment in procuring life to other beings, destined, for the most part, to the same languishing existence.

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The wish of Nature, often called in question, is more frequently eluded; women dread to become mothers, because continual dissipation stifles in their heart innate sentiments; as a mode of life, in which Nature is incessantly counteracted, has almost deprived them of the strength to become so. The art of midwifery has attained the point at which it has arrived among us, that is, an art replete with difficulties, only because our women are become knowing in the art of creating for themselves an existence, as it were, preternatural; and were it possible not to pity them, for thus sacrificing their charms and their real happiness, we should cease to remark, with so much concern, the impression of intemperance in the painful circumstance of delivery, and in the disorder which is frequently the consequence of it, a disorder which scarcely ever attacks the Greek women, whose happy constitution, strengthened by simple habits and regular manners, has need only of a little assistance at the moment of child-birth, and renders art useless.

Accordingly, the profession of man-midwife is there entirely unknown, and were any to make their appearance, they would meet with a very ungracious reception, and remain in complete

complete inaction. In the first place, public morals have preserved in the EAST exterior austerity, which, if it do not always constitute their individual purity, shews, at least, that the habit of respecting them is a national character: men would not there be suffered to apply themselves to the practice of midwifery; and without having read HECQUET's\* book, it would there be considered as the height of indecency, for a woman to have recourse to a man-midwife:

Besides, Nature takes on herself almost all the trouble of an operation, which, in our countries, is reckoned a delicate one; and the midwife that is called in, wedded to a vulgar routine; is frequently mistaken as to the means which she employs for assisting Nature. If any difficulty occur, the midwife has recourse to superstitious practices; to this is limited her science; the cases in which she is obliged to recur to them, fortunately, happen very seldom, and a difficult labour is there a very extraordinary event.

During the time which I passed in the chamber of the young Greek woman in la-

\* HECQUET, a very pious physician, has composed a work on the indecency of men delivering women.



bour, I put to the midwife various questions respecting her practice; I asked her, for instance, what she did in deliveries where the child did not present itself naturally? She assured me, that this hardly ever happened to her; but that then she strove to make the child take a suitable position, and that if she could not succeed in this, she had remaining a resource which, she assured me, was infallible for relieving her from embarrassment: this was to apply to the husband, who, in the opinion of the women of this country, possesses in an eminent degree the power of removing every obstacle that opposes the delivery of his wife; and this magic power consists in three taps which the man is to give with his shoe on the patient's back, at the same time pronouncing in a loud voice these words: "*It is I who have loaded thee with this burden; I now remove it.*"

At length the critical moment arrived. The young woman was made to sit on the fatal tripod: the description which I have given of this sort of seat sufficiently indicates the position of the woman; an air of candour and inquietude rendered her extremely interesting, and her features, the elegant model of youth and beauty, appeared by no means af-

fectcd by pain. The midwife placed herself in front of her, and a little below her, and the female assistant sat down behind her on a higher seat, and embraced her tightly with her arms round the waist.

The child presently made its appearance; and as soon as it was separated from the after-birth, the assistant, with a vigorous arm, lifted up the lying-in-woman repeatedly, and perpendicularly above the tripod, on which she suffered her to fall again with much roughness. I could not get the better of my astonishment to see this interesting woman, abandoned to a manœuvre which appeared to me equally absurd and revolting; she was thus unmercifully shaken till she was entirely delivered, and very fortunately that was ere long accomplished. This violent proceeding, in general use, is a mean which the Greek women consider indispensable for completing the delivery; and accidents are seldom the consequence of it, although it may appear likely to occasion numerous ones. “Violent and  
“ repeated joltings,” says SACOMBE, in a letter to me on this subject, “cannot but in-  
“ flame parts already bruised and fatigued by  
“ the passage of the child, and produce de-  
“ scents, or, at least, relaxations of the uterus  
“ and

“ and vagina, uterine hæmorrhages, syncope,  
“ and convulsive attacks. If physical con-  
“ stitution preserve the Greek women from  
“ the fatal consequences of this bad practice,  
“ we must congratulate them on being born  
“ under a sky so favoured by Nature\*.”

Whatever may be the solidity of the motives of the censure which found physicians pronounce against so rough a method of hastening the delivery of a woman, it would be difficult to succeed in causing it to be abandoned in a country where experience has shewn, that it is not attended with unhappy consequences. I saw, with surprise, that the lying-in woman herself did not complain of it; and that, after a trial in appearance so cruel, she went and placed herself, of her own accord, in a bed, without appearing either too much weakened, or too much oppressed by fatigue. A few moments of repose restored her to a state truly unexpected; the colour of her face had a tint less lively, but it was still rosy: she received, without constraint, a crowd of congratulations, and replied to them as if she had been in the most tranquil situation.

\* Letter from SACOMBE to SONNINI, dated PARIS, 13 Nivose, year ix. (2d January, 1801.)

I wished to ascertain the treatment to which the Greek women are subjected after their lying-in; and of this it consists. Immediately after the delivery, the woman is surrounded by a broad linen roller, from the bosom to the loins, and it is drawn very tight. Here, European practice exclaims anew to reprobate this bandage. “All mechanical  
“compression on the belly of a woman, newly  
“brought to bed, is very dangerous, from  
“the disposition of the abdominal cavity and  
“an approaching inflammation. The weight  
“of the child, during nine months of pregnancy, the successive contractions of the  
“uterus, or the violent pains of child-birth,  
“irritate that viscus and inflame it; all  
“compression must, therefore, be fatal to  
“the woman brought to bed\*.” A learned theory has, doubtless, revealed the inconveniences of this method; but these are no more than chimeras to the Greek women, who maintain, with as much impunity, the compression of the roller with which they encompass them, as they brave the dangers of the joltings of their delivery. They, on the contrary, find in it an advantage which

\* Letter from SACOMBE to SONNINI.

is connected with the beautiful preservation of their form, and which a multitude of women, of other countries, might envy them: it is to avoid an excessive and habitual swelling of the belly, or, what is still more disagreeable, the numerous folds and deep wrinkles with which the skin is furrowed.

On the first day, the midwife dresses the lying-in woman with dry rose leaves, boiled in wine and honey. After several lotions of this mixture, rose-leaves are applied till the next morning. The second day, and the following days, she contents herself with simply fomenting her patient with cotton steeped in warm wine, and then applying alternately powder of cinnamon, cloves, nutmegs, or cummin; that is to say, that only one of these aromatic powders is employed at a time, and it is changed at each dressing.

In lieu of wine, which is made use of only for delicate women, the midwives commonly employ brandy, which renders the dressing more smarting and more violent. Whatever may be the state of the lying-in woman, whether her cure outstrip the common term, or whether it experience delays, the same dressing is continued for eight days, morning and evening. It is curious to remark, that



that at each of these dressings, the midwife gets on the bed of the lying-in woman, by the side opposite to the bolster, extends her legs between those of her patient, takes hold of both her hands, and with one foot, which she applies very exactly to the parts which have suffered, gives her three strong shakes, at the same time pressing her rudely with her foot.

On the eighth day, in the evening, an egg is boiled hard, and stripped of its shell; it is then powdered with some of the aromatics before mentioned, and confined, with bandages, to the part which the midwife has pressed with her foot, and there it is left for two or three hours. It is to this operation, the object of which, according to what was gravely related to me by the midwife, is to attract the cold which the lying-in woman might have caught; it is to this operation, I say, that the care after the lying-in is confined, and the midwife is dismissed.

This treatment is almost as harsh as the mode of delivery; it occasions acute pains, especially when brandy is made use of for the dressings. But it might be mitigated by retrenching useless things, such as kicks, and be corrected, in short, in such a manner as to  
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render it more supportable, without depriving it of its advantages; for it has incontestable ones, from its property of strengthening and closing parts which their own extension, or the manœuvres of the midwife, have fatigued or bruised; its effect is equally sure and quick, and it surpasses what might be thought likely to be expected from it, and what I can say.

The linen which has served for the lying-in must not be washed in sea-water, although the islanders of the ARCHIPELAGO scarcely employ any other for their washing: they are persuaded that, if they did not change their custom on this occasion, the lying-in woman would infallibly die. Neither must she suffer herself to be seen by any star; and if she go out, as is common enough, four or five days after the delivery, that is, before the treatment is terminated, she takes care to return home, and shut herself up in her chamber at sun-set, and neither to open, under any pretext, door nor window, for fear a star should surprise her, and, according to the common prejudice, cause the death of the mother and the child.

The first time that a woman quits her bed after her lying-in, she must, before she sets

her feet on the floor, place them on a piece of iron, in order, it is said, that she may become strong and sound like that metal. Nor can she in like manner enter into any house, without throwing on the threshold of the door a key, or any other bit of iron, on which she cannot dispense with treading, if she wish to avoid introducing with her the fatal influences with which she is supposed to be surrounded.

The care which is lavished, in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, on new-born infants, is, like those which the mothers receive, a medley of useful practices and absurd conceptions of superstitious Ignorance, a tyrannical divinity, of whom modern GREECE is become the frightful domain, and who presides at the birth of its inhabitants, accompanies them during the course of their life, and does not even abandon them on the other side of the grave.

As soon as the child is born, it is washed with lukewarm water; it is then covered, from the feet to the neck, with a coat of salt, which is considered as a sure preservative against worms and other disorders of the skin. After being wrapped up in swaddling clothes, it is put to bed, and then a loaf and a pestle,

or

or any other piece of fashioned wood, is placed at its sides: the bread is to prevent the child from suffering from hunger as long as it lives, and the effect of the pestle is to render it as quiet as a log of wood. In other countries of the EAST, the mother takes her new-born child, and the midwife a brass mortar, with which she strikes three blows pretty near to the child's ear, in order, it is said, to open the organ of hearing, and prevent deafness.

Whenever a child is laid down, the persons who are in the room are obliged to stay there till it is arranged in its bed, and no other can enter during the time that this operation lasts. The importance which is annexed to the non-infringement of these precautions, proves that they are of superior interest in the mind of the Greeks; they are, in fact, persuaded, that the greatest inconveniences would thence result, if people took the liberty of transgressing them. These are not the only indifferent actions which are reckoned to have fatal effects on children; for example, neither fire nor light must be taken from a house where there is a new-born infant, if one wishes not to expose it to vent cries during the whole night. But the instant when it is swaddled, is principally con-

sidered as likely to produce dangers the most pressing, if those about it neglect to avoid every thing that they fancy might be prejudicial to it. Movements too much multiplied round its bed, indiscreet words, looks even, are so many pernicious actions: accordingly every one remains motionless, and preserves a religious silence. I happened one day, on seeing a child swaddled, to say: "*There's a pretty little infant.*" The midwife, occupied with this business, turned briskly towards me, at the same time exclaiming: "*Garlic in thy eyes!*" She then spat, with the same vivacity, and repeatedly, in the child's face, which very happily broke the charm, or the bad influence of words extremely innocent, and which I might think likely to be agreeable to the mother.

However, this custom of spitting in the face, for the purpose of preventing the effect of fascinations, is very ancient; and, in times very remote, as at present, nothing was more dreaded for children than *the influence of a sinister look*, which, in the idea of the Greeks, signifies jealousy and envy: their ancestors were imbued with the same prejudices. The superstition of the women of Asiatic Greece, with respect to little children, in the age of

THEODOSTIUS



THEODOSIUS the Great, and of ARCADIUS his son, could not be equalled. ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOME complained of it loudly: “No sooner are children born,” says he, “than the women light lamps, and give them the name of people who have lived a long time, in order to procure them a long life. They place in their hands siftra and snappers, and threads of scarlet, in order to put them in greater safety. The women, the nurses, and sometimes the servant maids, go and dip their finger in a sort of mud which is at the bottom of the baths, and afterwards imprint the same finger on the child’s forehead; and when they are questioned as to the purpose of this mud—It is, say they, to avert sinister looks, envy, and jealousy. There were some who wrote on the hand of children the names of floods and rivers; others made use of ashes, foot, and salt, and all this in order to avert sinister looks, that is, envy and jealousy\*.”

Among the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, garlic is a wonderful antidote against malicious looks; some is suspended at the entrance

\* *Mémoires de l’Académie des Belles Lettres*, vol. xiii. page 484, year 1737: *des mœurs et des usages du siècle de Théodose le Grand*, par Dom. BERNARD DE MONTFAUCON.

of the houses and chambers, and it is worn as an amulet. In order to preserve children from this kind of witchcraft, there are also fastened before them three little pieces of charcoal and three grains of salt, sewed together in a little linen bag; and I remember that I had a very serious quarrel with a woman of this country, for having opened one of these amulets hung to the neck of her child, in order to see what it contained, and, above all, for having endeavoured to demonstrate to her the ridiculousness of these vain practices of superstition.

It is not only on children that the influence of sinister looks are reckoned to be hurtful; men grown are equally exposed to it, and the Mahometans and Greeks partake, in this respect, of the same opinions. A Turk, who had a great regard for me, and who dreaded, on my account, the bad effects of the glances of envy, advised me to wear constantly a pod of garlic on my breast; and, seeing that I did not appear to adopt this preservative with much eagerness, turned towards a Greek priest who was at his side, and said to him with confidence: — “ *These Franks are*  
“ *great blockheads, since this one, who, among*  
“ *them*

*“ them, is reckoned to be intelligent, knows no-  
“ thing of what may be useful to him.”*

Flocks have also to fear, in these same countries, the maliciousness of looks: this is, however, an ancient prejudice, which still subsists in the greater part of our country-places. Superstitious ideas resemble each other in all times, in all countries, because they proceed from ignorance, their common source; and they will subsist as long as that miry source shall not be dried up. This is to announce, that it will last as long as the world endures; for, in spite of the dreams of pretended philosophers, who would wish that every class of society should attain their knowledge, and their lofty and chimerical conceptions, there will always remain, very fortunately, a laborious and simple portion tainted, if you will, with chimerical opinions, but infinitely less dangerous and more useful than certain mountebanks of philosophy, whose precepts, could they be followed, would rather effect the dissolution than the establishment of human societies.

Ancient authors often speak of this sort of fatal malignity, which is shot from the sinister eye of the envious; the poets frequently recall to mind its disastrous effects among  
H 4. . . . . flocks

flocks\*. In their time, a disease was occasioned among cattle by malevolent looks; in our days too, in several districts of our northern countries, the extraordinary diseases of cattle are attributed to *a fate*; and quacks know how to avail themselves of this credulity, in order to make people believe that they have the power of breaking the charm by magic operations. But what is no less deplorable, in regard to the weakness of the human mind, is, that grave authors have seriously attempted to explain the causes of these chimerical fascinations†.

To these absurd precautions for preserving little children, the Greek women add several others, which do not appear always conformable to the rules of a salutary regimen. The means which these women employ for hindering children from venting cries are rather singular. The mother chews cumin, and then blows it strongly into the mouth and ears of her child. Independently of cumin, the effect of which it is not easy to determine in such a case, the violent puffs im-

\* THEOCRITUS, OVID, &c. VIRGIL makes a herdsman say:

“*Nescio quis teneros oculo mihi fascinat agnos.*”

† PORTA. *Magia Naturalis*, &c. &c.

pelled into the ears must astonish the child, and cause it to be silent, at least for some time.

In order to excite children to sleep, they are made to swallow powdered nutmeg in milk; but the remedy which is the most commonly used in their illnesses, the most excellent panacea, is VENICE treacle. On the smallest pain which they appear to feel, if they cry, if they sleep little, or if their appetite fail, in a word, in all their indispositions, of whatever nature they may be, recourse is had to treacle, as a sovereign and universal remedy. Scarcely a day passes without a little child swallowing some of this drug, or at least having a plaster of it on the navel; so that it may be asserted that, in the ARCHIPELAGO, a child consumes more of this treacle, during its first two years, than the man of our countries, the greatest admirer of this composition, during his whole life. The poor, for whom this treacle is too costly a remedy, supply its place by cumin seed, the plant of which is very common in the EAST, and which they reduce to a paste, in order to make their young children swallow it in lieu of the treacle.

This excessive use of heating drugs is, no doubt, attended with inconveniences; but  
there



there are to be found in that country stout men, and women of perfectly good constitutions, and this is a prejudice in its favour: while among us, where knowledge abounds, but where, not unfrequently, the lessons of experience are sacrificed to the conceptions of a brilliant theory, and disdainfully metamorphosed into traditions of routine, the cooling diet which relaxes and enervates, has prevailed in the opulent class, that is to say, in that which narrows the most the limits of their life, by making the greatest efforts for enlarging them. We have before us the picture of the beings whom it produces, or rather whom it has devoted to languor and suffering. In order to avoid chaps and excoriations which greatly incommode children in all parts of the body that form folds moistened by sweat or urine, the Greek women wash them with warm wine, in which they infuse myrtle-leaves, dried and reduced to powder. These lotions are repeated every other day, with considerable success; for one never sees a child whose skin is marked by the slightest excoriation.

These pains, lavished with so much attention on new-born infants, the sacred pledges  
of

of maternal affection, which never errs so far as to intrust to a mercenary bosom the sacred obligation of suckling its offspring during a whole year, do not extend to the precautions prescribed by religion. The Greeks are not in such a hurry as the Catholics to cause baptism to be administered to their children. This delay is common enough in the class of the poor, because such must wait till they have saved up the money necessary for the payment of the *papas*, whose zeal does not go so far as to discharge their function gratuitously. But as children are commonly distinguished only by the name which they receive in baptism, the Greeks have agreed to designate that which waits for the sacrament, by the generic denomination of *drako*, dragon, probably because at that time it has some conformity to SATAN, the dragon of hell.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

*The age of puberty in the Archipelago.—Periodical evacuation of the women of those islands.—Singular law of the Jews on this subject.—Character of the Greek women.—Means which they employ to learn whom fate has destined for their husband.—Festival of St. John.—Different resins which the women keep incessantly in their mouth.—Paint which they use.—Pretended preservative against being tanned by the sun.*

UNDER the happy climate of GREECE, the body sooner acquires its full growth than in our northern countries; there the organs, as well as all the physical faculties, are developed with less slowness; there the human species, in some measure more forward, seem to outstrip the period of its enjoyments, and hastens to display the elegant forms of beauty that Nature has lavished on a land which she had fashioned to be the abode of felicity, and which the most disgusting tyranny, the  
dreadful

dreadful scourge of societies, has transformed into places of wretchedness and desolation. The men, like the women, arrive sooner at that age, when the agitation and the disorder of the senses give birth to a new sense, in which man seems only to receive his existence, in which every thing becomes animated and embellished, in which every thing appears around him to burn with the same flame by which he is deliciously consumed.

It is not uncommon, in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, to see girls marriageable at ten years old; and, when they have attained the age of fifteen or sixteen, they have scarcely any thing more to acquire in point of shape, strength, and all the attributes of the most beautiful physical constitution. It is well known that the periodical evacuation, peculiar to women, diminishes in quantity in proportion to the heat and humidity of the climate. More copious in EUROPE, it is less so in the EAST; it is still less in EGYPT and BARBARY; very trifling in the interior of AFRICA, and almost null in the countries of AMERICA bordering on the equator. Philosophers have carried observation so far as to calculate the quantity of this evacuation; and it is from the result of their researches that I  
have

have composed the account of the progressive diminution in the different parts of the globe. But the temperature of the eastern islands of the MEDITERRANEAN must have experienced some change since the age of HIPPOCRATES, or else the human species must have undergone some alteration, since the weight of nine *kemina*, equivalent to nine ounces, at which that great physician had estimated the quantity of the periodical discharge of the women of the Isle of Cos, his country, is at present too much for the women of the same countries, as I have convinced myself. There is no one whose evacuation even comes near the weight fixed by HIPPOCRATES: among the greater part, it never exceeds three ounces, and with several it is so trifling, that it is almost reduced to nothing.

Observations of this kind are not frivolous, as some persons might imagine. They are important traits of our own history, and it is only by collecting them that man will succeed in knowing himself: a knowledge which, notwithstanding the number of writings that we have on this subject, is not yet much advanced, because we have, in reality, written more than we have observed.



But these materials, of which the annals of the human species are composed, are not easy to present in a work of which it is not wished to make a book of anatomy. A sort of delicacy in our language rejects expressions which art has consecrated; then we must employ phrases in lieu of words, and intimate rather than express our meaning in a clear and precise manner. A zealous friend as I am of Nature, I am not less so of propriety, and I shall speak of the nice, yet interesting observations, to which I was impelled by a love of science, but with that reserve of style, that circumspection in the images, in short, those delicate precautions, which paint without dazzling, and constitute the decency of a writer.

The legislator of the Hebrews had pronounced sentence of death against husbands whose petulance did not stop at certain periods\*. MOSES, therefore, must have suspected consequences extremely fatal, and we must have a curiosity to be acquainted with them. Dissertations, as well as conjectures, have been accumulated for the purpose of endeavouring

\* *Qui coierit cum muliere in fluxu menstruo, et revelaverit turpitudinem ejus, ipsaque aperuerit fontem sanguinis sui, interficientur ambo de medio populi sui.* LEVIT. cap. xx. v. 18.

to discover the motive of a law so severe. Physicians have seen, in an action which involved the penalty of death, the source of a disease whose irruption into EUROPE some writer has, methinks, improperly thought of fixing at the moment of the discovery of AMERICA \*. They have called in to the help of their hypothesis the heat of climate, as being likely to give greater malignity to that disease, while experience has informed us that it was, on the contrary, much less violent and less difficult to be cured in hot countries. Others have asserted that, among a people where legislation tended not only to favour, but even to excite the increase of population, it was natural to prohibit acts which, not contributing to it effectually, on that account even became contrary to it. But, admitting that this was no more than a vain appeal to sterility, which is by no means certain, it can hardly be supposed that these acts would have been considered as a crime which deserved the most rigorous punishment, since the same laws did not, during the pregnancy of women, prohibit a work of sterility well proved.

† *Traité des maladies vénériennes*, par ASTRUC, liv. i. chap. ii.

A celebrated man of learning, by his inquiries into the manners and customs of the Israelites, M. MICHAËLIS, had engaged the travellers, whom the King of DENMARK sent into several countries of the EAST, to direct their observations towards a point on which depended the understanding and explanation of a law very singular, but at the same time excessively rigid\*. The sciences had to regret the intelligent and courageous men, charged with the honourable mission of going to acquire, at a distance, information and knowledge, treasures over which humanity has not to mourn, and from which honour and probity avert not their looks. My observations will not, undoubtedly, be able to make up for those which we had a right to expect from this learned assemblage; but I have thought that their result might afford some interest, from the elucidations which they contain, on a subject, which has, as yet, only given room to conjectures.

I have neglected no opportunity of gathering precise information, whether in EGYPT, where

\* *Les Voyageurs sçavans et curieux, ou Tablettes instructives et Guide de ceux que sa Majesté Danoise a envoyés en Arabie et autres pays voisins; par M. MICHAËLIS. London, 1768, question 10.*

it was difficult to obtain any, and sometimes dangerous to look for it, or in GREECE, where the same difficulties do not exist. It is very certain that, in those countries of the EAST, the action which the legislator of the Jews repressed with so much severity, is not reckoned to be attended with fatal consequences, nor to occasion the slightest inconvenience, although it is not there uncommon: the men of those climates even find in it some attractions, for reasons which are known to natural philosophers, and which I shall dispense with giving. Nay, we say more, this is that the Orientals do not suspect that any thing dangerous or inconvenient can thence result. Their careful cleanliness, their frequent ablutions were probably sufficient for securing them from any inconvenience in this respect. The Jews, on the contrary, the dirtiest people on earth, subject to the leprosy, and eaten up by all kinds of cutaneous disorders, apparently imbibed from these very excesses fresh ferments of acrimony, and a new tendency to complaints which the numerous precautions, prescribed by religion, had not succeeded in extirpating, and of which, in our days, they still preserve the disgusting impression. The severity of these precautions, which fill  
the

the pages of the religious code of the Israelites, is the only motive that we can reasonably assign for the frightful rigour of a law, the dispositions of which had no other object than to intimidate an ignorant and rude nation, since they could not reach infractions buried in darkness and mystery.

It is not astonishing that women, whom the nature of the climate causes to arrive sooner at a marriageable state, should have moral dispositions which agree with this physical precocity. The vivacity, the transport even of feeling, accompany this forward adolescence of the senses. That devouring fire which endeavours to communicate itself externally, is very active among the Greek females; they are very susceptible of the impressions of love; tender and passionate, the object beloved is every thing in their eyes; to preserve it, no sacrifice is painful to them, and they are, in this way, real heroines. What a charming country is that where the mildness of the climate and the dress of the earth are in delightful harmony with that beauty, which love animates with its fascinating features, tenderness with its sweetest effusions, and a generous and entire devotion with the flights of energy and courage!



But we should be mistaken if we thought that the disorder of the senses accompanied that energy, that sort of delirium of sensibility. These women, so tender and so impassioned, have, at the same time, no small share of reserve: while warm and profound affections torment and agitate their soul, that internal trouble is not communicated externally; their deportment preserves the appearance of calmness and gravity; scrupulous decency ceases not to guide their actions; and, proud of being loved, because they are themselves consumed by an ardent flame, it is in a tête-à-tête only that they give themselves up to the torrent of their transports, which are so much the more impetuous as they have been longer checked. There it is that their exquisite sensibility is surrounded by all its charms, and that the delicate and sensible man can meet with the celestial happiness of seeing lavished on himself the expressions and all the marks of sentiments so delightful, in a word, of being loved as he has scarcely the hope to be elsewhere.

No less simple in their tastes than warm in their affections, the Greek females have not precise manners, and the studied affectation of coquetry; characteristic signs of a  
haughty

haughty pretension exacting homage, which ceases to be sweet as soon as it ceases to be free, as if every species of tyranny was not the grave of sentiment: a resource unskilful and unworthy of beauty, because it stifles tenderness, which can alone constitute its happiness, and produces only gallantry at which delicate souls are scared. It is, in fact, no longer any thing but the mechanism of love; it is no longer any thing but barren favours, which, like a charming shrub that had been stripped of its vernal flowers and foliage, lose their sweetest charms, and have then no attractions but for the impetuous tumult of the senses or the habit of depravity. Women such as I have just described them, who know how to walk with so much grace by the bright light of the torch of Love, also advance with dignity to the altar of Hymen. The knots which they there tie with frankness, are never loosened; and in those sacred engagements, which they consider as inviolable, they display the same energy of sentiment, the same fires of an inflamed soul, the same devotedness of which the husband, like the lover, is the sole object, and which scatter the roses of Love in the temple of Hymen.

A rule common to all the nations of the EAST, prescribes that the women should never present themselves in the porch of that august temple, but decorated with the qualities to which the men of those countries, more jealous than elsewhere of such a kind of priority, attach so great a value, that it is a public dishonour in the eyes of all, and a crime with some, for women who should not there afford unequivocal proofs of the most scrupulous fidelity, in preserving a treasure of which the vanity of men constitutes nearly all the value. However rigorous may be this obligation, more strictly followed by Mahometan women, because more restrained and closely watched, they have scarcely an opportunity of infringing it, the Greek females, whose youth is not more confined than that of European girls, do not always perform it with the same exactness; but they employ a few stratagems for preserving at least the appearances of it, and they exert so much address in this little fraud, that every one is deceived by it, and the union of the married couple is not thereby disturbed.

It is not very common, however, for those resources employed for disguising the wanderings of love, to become necessary. The Greek

girls do not easily allow themselves to be robbed of a treasure which they are to bring as a marriage-portion; their resistance in this respect is almost always invincible, and affords a rather singular contrast to the circumspect facility which they grant to favoured love of gathering a few scattered and burning flowers. It is still more uncommon for amorous sacrifices to leave behind them apparent traces; and when tender sentiments lead to tender errors, simple and ingenious precautions which are not even unknown to women, prevent all accident, without being prejudicial to an entire sacrifice to enjoyment: artifices which, as well as the lessons, or to speak more correctly, the thefts on love, taught by SAPPHO, and which her descendants have not forgotten, may perhaps be dated from antiquity; they have fortunately escaped the industrious corruption of our morals, and I shall take good care not to reveal them.

Hearts disposed to sentiment must ardently wish to meet with men worthy of their tenderness, and who answer to the want which they have of loving. The girls of the ARCHIPELAGO employ, with much ingenuity, various means for ascertaining whether the object beloved will become their husband, or for

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knowing

knowing him whom Hymen intends for them. ST. JOHN is to the girls of these countries, what ST. NICHOLAS is to those of my country, who address to him their prayers and their vows, in order to obtain a speedy change of condition. On the eve of the festival of the saint, the Greek girls assemble in several parties, and they there occupy themselves solely on the interesting subject which calls them together. They send for water from a well or cistern; the person who has charge of it must not utter a single word, under any pretext whatever: this water is, for that reason, called *secret water*. They fill with it a large jar, in which every one of them puts an apple; the jar, whose lid must lock, is then shut; it is placed on the flat roof of a house or in any other elevated situation, and there left, during the whole night, in the open air. The next day, that is, on the very day of the festival of ST. JOHN, they assemble again after church, and no one comes too late. They address a few prayers to ST. JOHN, which are, in reality, only invocations to love; the jar full of water is again brought with religious precaution; it is opened and every girl draws up *secret water*, in a small vessel, with her apple, which she has taken care to notice: she

makes



makes over each of them three signs of the cross, at the same time saying: "*Great St. JOHN, ordain that, if I am to marry N...., this vessel may turn to the right; and if he is not to become my husband, the vessel may turn to the left.*" She who has pronounced this prayer, joins her hands, at the same time holding her thumbs raised and spread the one from the other; one of her female companions places herself before her and does the same; on these four thumbs, thus arranged, is then placed the vessel, which never fails, it is said, to turn of itself to the right or left, and thus to point out the husband that is to be united to her who is expecting with inquietude the answer of this singular oracle, which each girl consults in her turn, and in the same manner. Several persons of the gravest cast have assured me, that they had seen the vessel turn; and it would be in vain to attempt to persuade the Greeks that St. JOHN has no share in the effect, quite natural, of the want of solidity and mobility of a support, some parts of which, by swerving from the others, impress on the vessel a slight motion, which, in eyes already prejudiced, may appear as a commencement of rotation on its base.

A restless

A restless curiosity does not always stop at this first trial, and these females endeavour to look, in another manner, into a futurity too slow in making its appearance. This same day, the festival of ST. JOHN, some young Greek girls add a new mean to that of the turning vessel: they wash themselves with *secret water* in which the apples have been bathed; they then go into the street, and the first name which they hear pronounced, is that of the husband whom fate intends for them.

While the girls are giving themselves up to occupations dear to their heart, and calculated for allaying a natural impatience, the women think of the cares which custom prescribes to mothers: a part of ST. JOHN's day is employed in pounding and putting by salt, which is to serve for covering their new-born children. All, women and girls, besides the apples which the latter plunge into the *secret water*, put, on the eve of the festival, one into a jar full of water, and there leave it till noon the next day. This apple, thus steeped, becomes a gift precious to love or friendship; the women present it to the person for whom they have the most affection next to their husband; and the young Greeks  
leave

leave nothing undone to obtain the apple, a pledge of sentiments of preference, and a happy presage of the gifts of love.

The festival of ST. JOHN is, in most civilized countries, a remarkable day, independently of the solemnity attached to it by religion. It happens in the summer solstice, a period always accompanied by considerable changes in the atmosphere, and these variations are sufficiently marked to strike the vulgar, and make them attribute to the saint that which is no more than the natural effect of the succession of the seasons. In my country, the *ci-devant* LORRAINE, ST. JOHN rules the cutting of hay; whether or not it have attained a state of maturity, the scythe lays it low the day after the festival. In the *LEVANT*, the plague is to disappear on this very day; and the Greeks of the *ARCHIPELAGO* are persuaded, that, by means of certain abstinences, which are connected more with superstition than with religious ideas, ST. JOHN will preserve them from fever during the whole year. In the course of the day of this festival, they eat no sort of meat or fish; they even deprive themselves of bread, and they take nothing but herbs and some fruit: an austere abstinence, which is repeated from generation to generation.

neration to generation, although experience has shewn that it did not attain its object.

In the ARCHIPELAGO, as in a great part of the EAST, the women make a great use of mastic, a resin which exudes from the lentisk cultivated in the Isle of SCIO; they are chewing it incessantly, and they find in it the property of preserving the teeth and of rendering the breath sweet. But as all the women of the ARCHIPELAGO, where wretchedness is greater, are not always in a situation to procure SCIO mastic, and as they are not, on that account, the less in the habit of holding continually something in their mouth, they make use of another species of resin, produced by a plant which grows naturally on the soil of MILO and of ARGENTIERA, and probably on other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. This plant, which is also very abundant in CANDIA, where it is called *ardaëttila*, and where the women likewise chew resin, is the *atractilis gummifera* of LINNÆUS. The Greeks of MILO and ARGENTIERA give it the name of *anganthia tsi mastikas*, that is, *prickles of mastic*, because the plant is beset with prickles, and because they call *mastic* the resin which exudes from it, although it has scarcely any other affinity to the true mastic, the resin of

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the lentisk, than from the custom of being both bruised between the teeth. It comes in like manner in white or yellowish drops round the plant; it is gathered in the months of July and August, and it is difficult to be detached, on account of the great number of thorns which guard it, and to which it adheres. The flowers of this *attractilis* do not appear till October; the seeds, when they are ripe, are detached in flight, and, as it were, winged filaments, and become the sport of the winds. The Greeks call these sorts of little wandering stars, which the agitation of the air sometimes brings into the houses, *moloystrès*, which signifies informers, spies.

Although the greater number of the Greek women have no need to borrow any thing from art, in order to give their complexion that colour and bloom which they receive from nature, yet they frequently endeavour to give it more lustre and vivacity. This inquietude, which occasions beauty never to be satisfied with itself, is therefore common to all countries! But in this, at least, pernicious drugs alter not the colour of a beautiful carnation, and sharp and caustic juices dry not the skin; the slight artifices which an ardent and restless wish, rather than a move-  
ment



ment of coquetry employs, are simple, like Nature, which affords its elements.

Anciently the Greek women made use of red and white. It is uncommon for the Greek females of our time, those at least who inhabit the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, to put on white; and when they use it, they employ for it no other substance than the species of very small univalve and white shells, of the genus of cowries, and which are known in French under the vulgar name of *pucelages*. After having carefully washed these shells, they are pounded in order to be reduced to impalpable powder, on which is expressed the juice of a lemon, which makes it a very beautiful white.

The red is drawn from the bulb of a beautiful species of iris, which, with other flowers brought from the same countries in order to constitute the richness of our parterres, embellish the deserted plains and the rural spots of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. Its stem, upwards of a foot high, and its long leaves, terminated in points, are of a beautiful green; the flower is of a bright violet without, and of a bright yellow, striped with a deeper yellow, within; the stamina are yellow, and the seeds or fruits are black, and  
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of a very irregular form. The Greeks call this plant *agrio crino*, wild lily, because it is, in fact, a liliaceous plant, although it is not, properly speaking, a real lily.

The following is the method practised for extracting a paint from the bulbous roots of this iris. They are stripped of their exterior pedicles, and are then of a snow white; they are grated, and the pulp is put into water; it is then kneaded, washed three times in clean water, and, at each time, it is strained through a very fine linen cloth. At the third time, the grounds are thrown away, and the last water is left to settle for twelve or fifteen hours. At the end of that time, the water is gently poured off by sloping the jar, at the bottom of which is found an amylaceous sediment; it is dried and reduced to a fine powder, which is kept in bottles or pots well closed, to be made use of as wanted, and it is thus preserved for a very long time. When it is wanted for use, a pinch of it is taken, and put on the cheek, which is then rubbed slightly for a few minutes with the palm of the hand. This application causes, for the first time, a little smarting, but the cheeks become of a vermilion red; for this powder has also the property of giving a lustre to the skin

skin. Neither heat, nor sweat, nor any other cause can dispel this brilliant colour, which does not consist in a coat of substances spread externally, but is inherent in the skin itself. It is unnecessary to renew frequently the same operation; the face preserves its bloom for several days, and a woman may wash herself without fear of making it disappear or weakening it.

I had at first imagined that this very white powder, which gives the cheeks a red colour only by introducing itself into the pores, might hurt the skin of the face and alter it. I convinced myself, not without some degree of surprise, that it had no bad effect. I have examined the face of elderly women, who, from their youth, had employed this sort of paint; their skin was not in any way affected; it even appeared to have preserved a certain brilliant colour, which could be attributed only to a long use of iris powder, in which I found no other defect, than a strong herbaceous smell, which it would be easy to correct.

From the first day of the month of March till Easter, the women of the ARCHIPELAGO surround their wrists with silk thread of different colours; to these the rich add a gold thread.

thread. They think that this is a certain mean of securing themselves from the tanning of the sun during the month of March, which they consider as the most fatal to the skin. On Easter night, which all the Greeks pass almost entirely at church, the women kindle a fire at the door; they throw into it the threads which they have worn as bracelets during Lent, and they address prayers to God, in order that he may deign to preserve every father who loves his daughter, from the mortification of seeing her attacked by the tan of March.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

*Marriage of the Greeks. — Witchcraft of which young married people imagine themselves victims. — Precautions which young brides must take. — Care which mothers take of their children. — Physic of the Greeks in the Archipelago. — Regret which accompanies the dead. — Death and funeral of a papadia.*

TO the Greeks it is a social duty, which tends to the purity of domestic manners, to marry young. Among them are not seen that multitude of old bachelors, children of the combinations of insensibility and the scourge of morals: girls have not many years to celebrate the festival of ST. JOHN with their *secret water*, prepared with an ingenuous and restless curiosity; and young men hasten to unite themselves with those whom their heart, rather than their parents, has chosen. Love always presides at knots which vile interest has not tied; and friendship, as well as fidelity and attachment to duties, do not



not permit them to be loosened, at least in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, where habits are more simple, and less corrupted by ambition and cupidity, than in great towns. Divorce, which is allowed to the Greeks, scarcely occurs but in the bosom of trading cities and in the opulent class, whose calculations and speculations frequently supply the place of sentiment; but this dissolution of sacred engagements is extremely rare among the islanders, who know how to love in a durable manner, and whose marriages are better assorted than in the midst of the luxury of cities. Conjugal love is there in all its force; and this respected sentiment is one of the virtues of the modern Greek women.

When the dowry is settled between the families, and their consent, which is almost always in unison with the wish of the lovers, has disposed every thing for the nuptials, the young bride is conducted to the bath. The next day, a numerous retinue accompanies the young couple to church; songs and dances enliven a slow and grave march; and, in general, it is preceded by torches, the emblems of that of Love and of Hymen.

At the instant when the young couple come out of their house, cotton-seed is thrown

on their heads by handfuls. The same ceremony is repeated at church, at the moment of the nuptial benediction, which signifies that they are wished a life of felicity, composed of as many years as there have been seeds scattered. Persons in somewhat easy circumstances mix parats, small pieces of money of the value of fifteen of our deniers, with the seeds of the cotton-tree, and to these the richest add Turkish sequins, a gold coin, each piece of which is nearly equivalent to seven livres ten sous tournois. In INDIA, it is the priest who scatters on the young couple rice-seeds, as an emblem of fecundity.

The young pair choose a godfather and godmother, who no longer quit them till the end of the ceremony. The retinue is received at the door of the church by the papas, who blesses two crowns of foliage, adorned with ribands and laces, and places them on the head of the young couple; he likewise blesses two rings, and puts them on their fingers: but, during the celebration, he changes every instant the crowns and the rings, giving alternately the crown to the one, and the ring to the other, in such a manner, however, that the gold ring remains  
with

with the husband; and the silver one, with the wife. These changes are renewed by the godfather, the godmother, and the relations, so that they remain a very long time in the church. At length, the papas concludes by cutting small pieces of bread, which he puts into a cup full of wine; he takes some of the former with a spoon, and thus distributes it to the young couple and those present: the party then return in the same order to the house where the nuptial feast has been prepared; the relations and friends send provisions of every sort, and the Greeks, great lovers of festivity, there pass several days.

On going to and returning from church, the bride is supported by two women, or two of her male relations; she walks slowly, with her eyes cast down, and the veil of a grave and interesting modesty covers her face. In some parts of GREECE, as soon as the bride arrives at the door of the dwelling of her husband, a carpet is spread over a sieve, which is placed on the very threshold of the door, and she is made to walk on it. If the sieve, on which she fails not to tread strongly, did not break under her feet, this would excite against her suspicions which would alarm

her husband: he is quiet and contented after the trial of the sieve\*.

But another trial, more serious, awaits the bride. Conducted to the nuptial-bed by the godmother†, she soon sees her husband arrive, led by the godfather. They are left alone; but the godfather and godmother remain in an adjoining apartment, with the relations and even the friends. They go from time to time, to inquire whether every thing has terminated to mutual satisfaction; they come back, they return, till they are assured of the fact; then they bring to the married couple a nourishing broth, which they take in bed, in presence of the noisy assembly, who then withdraw, to return no more.

Among all the nations of the EAST, the men have been envious of the first fruits, of which they frequently obtain no more than the appearances. In EGYPT, a crowd, still more importunate than in GREECE, lays siege to the chamber of the married couple, and abandons it not till they have given up to them the marks, often equivocal, of a vir-

\* See *Les Lettres sur la Grèce*, by GUYS, Paris, 1783, vol. i. page 249.

† *Ducitur in thalamum virgo, stat pronuba juxta.* CLAUD.

tue which is outraged. In NATOLIA, and in some other parts of the Ottoman empire, the Turks and the Greeks who marry are obliged to suspend, on the outside of the house, those signs, real or fictitious, of the folly of the men, more than of the innocence of the women, in order that every passenger may examine and ascertain that the honour of the married couple is untainted. However precious these marks may be in the eyes of the Orientals, the Greek women also attach to them another value; it is, in their opinion, the most efficacious of all cosmetics, for removing spots and pimples from the face, and rendering the skin soft and smooth.

But these pretended signs of innocence, which a false pride ambitiously seeks and exacts, do not always appear the first night of the nuptials. Several other nights, and sometimes whole months, elapse before they can be obtained. It is no longer the fault of the wife, it is the husband who thinks himself bewitched: envious people have pronounced words, and performed magical operations; he ceases to be a man. If means be not found to break the charm, the marriage is declared null, and the unfortunate



couple separate: custom allows them to contract another alliance; and jealous Fate, which had accompanied them in the former, does not attend them in the latter.

The magical operation by which the married couple are *tied*—(this is the term employed by the Greeks, and which answers to what was called among us, formerly, *nouer l'aiguillette*)—this operation, I say, is, according to them, an evocation to the devil; it is practised by forming three loose knots on a string. When the papas gives his benediction to the married couple, the malignant genius, that wishes to hurt them, draws the two ends of the string, tightens the knots, and says: “*I tie N—— and N——, and “the devil in the middle.*” Nothing more is necessary; the impotence of the husband lasts as long as the knots are not untied; and if the fatal string be lost, or if an obstinate malevolence refuse to undo it, dejection becomes general, and marasmus would lead to death, if the marriage were not dissolved: but this accidental weakness of the body is produced only by that of the mind. There is no Greek who, in marrying, does not dread to be *tied*. To this precaution are added the alarms which the bride and the relations

relations do not conceal from him: he does not present himself at the temple of Hymen but trembling, and with his soul full of terror; and if some circumstances appear to come to the support of this fear, his mind becomes troubled, and his imagination being struck, produces the evil of which it alone is the cause.

I have seen singular examples of what can be effected by the wandering of the imagination. I shall quote that of a young man whom I had a long time before my eyes. At the moment when he received the nuptial benediction, a rival had formed the three knots, and pronounced the imprecations: struck by this idea, though he was in the prime of life, and had, before this period, given proofs of a vigour which forsook him all at once; though, in short, his wife was upwards of twenty years of age, and was not reckoned to be of the most rigid virtue, they could not seal their union, and Hymen extinguished his torch. Shame and vexation were painted on the countenance of the young husband; the disorder, or rather weakness, increased in proportion as the mind was affected. Recourse was had to the priests, and to the skill of old women, who pretended

tended to have secrets for destroying the charm: nothing succeeded; the witchcraft resisted every thing. The devil stood firm, and he who thought himself tormented by him, while he was the victim only of his own imagination, reduced to a state which inspired pity, resumed all his energy with another woman, whom he took for wife, after having languished, for whole months, with her who could not be so.

Independently of prayers and holy water, of which the papas is not sparing when he is well paid, I saw tried on this unhappy youth various means for *untying* him, all absurd, and calculated only to make his chimerical ideas take deeper root. He was made to swim across an arm of the sea: the married couple were made to lie down, stripped of every garment, on the flat floor in the middle of the room, and they were surrounded by brambles. Another time, the husband alone was wrapped up in thistle leaves, and thus left to pass the night in cruel torment, &c. &c. remedies as chimerical as the complaint for which they were applied.

When witchcraft does not happen to disturb the first moments of an intimate union, it is recommended to the husband not to  
suffer

suffer his wife, however thirsty she may be, to take, during the first night, any sort of drink. She must also keep her room, not expose herself to the air for four days, and abstain from all work during eight. These attentions are said to be favourable to population; and, to judge of them by the great number of children that are seen in these countries, it would appear that they are not useless. Not any woman is seen but with one little child in her arms, and often two. Yet the effects of a happy fecundity are soon consumed, dispersed, and annihilated, by a despotism which is in continual war against nature and the human race.

Nothing equals the state of health, the robust constitution of the little children, except the facility with which they come into the world; an advantage for which the Greek women are indebted to the excellence of their constitution, to a simple, regular life, exempt from excesses, cares, and inquietudes, still more than to physical dispositions, calculated to render deliveries less painful, such as a distension more easy, and favoured by a greater quantity of the waters of the *amnios*. The young married women cheerfully carry the weight of their pregnancy. They see ap-  
proach

proach, with satisfaction, the term when they shall be invested with a dear and sacred title; and they acquit themselves of the duties which this new state imposes on them with the tender sollicitude and affectionate attentions which constitute the ornament and dignity of a mother. They thus prepare for themselves the sweetest recompense to which a feeling mind has a right to aspire; filial piety is the reward of maternal love; and those virtues, without which all society presents only the image of a scandalous disorganization, are held in honour among the modern Greeks, as they were among the Greeks of antiquity.

In the EAST, are not to be found women who make it an object of speculation to abandon their own children, in order to suckle those of others; a monstrous exchange, which dries up in their source the sentiments of nature, and might in a great measure be pleaded in excuse for the ingratitude of some children towards mothers who voluntarily renounce all claims to their love. The children have not, for a whole year, any other nourishment than their mother's milk. How not be attached, without reserve, to the bosom whence we have long imbibed our first and only subsistence, where, with our head softly reclined,



we have so frequently tasted the repose of innocence, where we have so many times been pressed by the sweet embraces of maternal love!

I found a singular prejudice spread among the women of the ARCHIPELAGO. Those who suckle their children are persuaded that if, for any want whatever, their milk should happen to be warmed over the fire, their bosom would become dry, and the milk would infallibly go away, to return no more.

I have already made mention of several means employed for curing the complaints and indispositions of little children; I shall add that, when they happen to have any complaint at the navel, a cataplasm of foot is applied to it.

However, all physic, in the Greek islands, is founded only on practices, on secrets, which are scarcely more rational than the opinion of the women respecting their milk. If we except a few foreigners, who seldom come thither to assume or usurp the title of physicians, there are none in these islands; and I must add, to the praise of the climate, more than to the detriment of the art, that, generally speaking, people there enjoy a state of health sufficiently good not to be tempted

to

to regret it. In common complaints, or accidents, recourse is had to women, who have the tradition of some recipes, which they apply without too much discernment, but which, nevertheless, often produce good effects. The following are such of those curative methods as I have seen employed on different occasions. I am far from giving them as good remedies; but they afford a sketch of the state in which the art of physic is, in our days, among a people where it has been cultivated by immortal men.

We may well expect not to meet with theory in the exercise of physic, to which women, who have learned nothing, apply themselves in GREECE. A few recipes of empiricism constitute all their skill; and if we may, with some reason, reproach our physicians with too frequently abandoning observation, in order to suffer themselves to be led away by vague and useless systematic conceptions, it must be acknowledged that, in the EAST, people fall into a contrary excess, through the ignorance which accompanies the application of remedies.

Bleeding is there much in use; but the Greeks wait as long as they possibly can before they suffer blood to be drawn from the  
arm,



unction. I endeavoured to learn whether this custom was preserved among the modern Greeks, and I convinced myself that they scarcely any longer made use of oily unctions in their disorders. Lentisk oil is, as I have already said, a remedy which is rather frequently resorted to in the ARCHIPELAGO for rheumatic pains, and *kedros* oil for the cure of cutaneous diseases. But olive-oil does not often enter into their curative methods: sometimes the loins are rubbed with it, when a person has strained himself; and the natural parts of women, to facilitate delivery, &c. &c. A Turk, commanding a galley belonging to the Grand Signior, and enjoying, in the ARCHIPELAGO, the reputation of a person replete with knowledge in physic, advised, in my presence, a man tormented by acute nephritic pains, to rub with warm olive oil his loins, belly, and groin: but the oil was not to be pure; it was necessary to throw into it a large lark, and boil it in the oil.

As for extreme unction, the Greeks have no other opinion of that sacrament than the catholics; it is administered nearly in the same manner, and they do not consume in it more oil, which proves that they imagine it

it not to be a final resource or remedy, endowed with a miraculous gift.

A topical preparation of origany, boiled in wine, and applied on the region of the spleen, is one of the hereditary recipes, preserved in the islands of GREECE, for curing inflammations, obstructions, and pains of that viscus. I must add, that it is one of those which I have seen succeed the best, from the relief which it fails not to give in those sorts of complaints. But, in pointing out this remedy, I must add, that its use, among the Greeks, is accompanied by mysterious accessories, without which they would have no faith in its efficacy. The application of it is to be made only on a certain day of the week, and at a certain phase of the moon: the patient is exposed to the light of that planet; a few grains of salt are scattered; a few words are pronounced, and the cataplasin is applied. However, origany is more particularly met with in the Island of SIPHANTO; thence it is commonly procured: its name, in vulgar Greek, is *rigano*.

To eat away the superfluous and fungous flesh of wounds and ulcers, the Greeks powder them with sugar, and apply over them some bruised plant or some ointment. In



other parts of the LEVANT, the Turks, in order to cause ulcers, boils, carbuncles, even those of the plague, to suppurate, and to soften and dispel swellings, bruises, inflammations, and other accidents of that nature, make use of *opuntia* leaves, roasted for a quarter of an hour on the ashes, and applied as hot as it is possible to bear them. Doctor SHAW adds, that they are also made use of in the gout, and that with all imaginable success\*. One of the remedies which the Greeks employ the most frequently for reducing tumours, and every species of enlargement, is to paint in black several crosses on the skin. The latter, at least, which is connected with a religious creed, may very probably not effect a cure; but it has nothing hurtful, and we cannot say as much of many others.

When any one has had a fall, the Greeks think to determine with precision the inward part which has suffered, by rubbing, with the yolk of an egg boiled hard, all the body of the patient: the place where the yolk of the egg breaks, indicates the internal part which has been hurt. But there is no re-

\* SHAW's Travels, 4to. vol. i.

medy more absurd, and at the same time more preposterous, than that used in the ARCHIPELAGO for curing the inflammation and enlargement of little kernels in the neck and under the root of the tongue, a disorder which is there very common. This remedy consists in rubbing gently the glans of a man over the throat and neck of the patient. The Greeks of these countries are acquainted with no other remedies for such complaints; and I have seen women have recourse to them with much gravity and the greatest possible confidence: so true it is, that it is the corruption of ideas, and consequently of morals, which constitutes the indecency of words and things!

On the uninhabited islets of the ARCHIPELAGO, still more than on the uncultivated grounds of the large islands, rue grows in abundance. The little Islands of SAN GIORGIO and SANT EUSTACHIO, which form on one side the roadstead of ARGENTIERA, are clothed with this plant. The modern Greeks call it *apigano*, and they make use of an infusion of it for killing the worms in children: but they make a much greater consumption of it as a preservative from the witchcraft occasioned by sinister looks; they place the

plant whole in several parts of their houses, and they wear its seeds as an amulet on different parts of the body. This superstition, however, is ancient; and we find it conigned in works which, had they not been filled with similar absurdities, would not have obtained the honours of immortality.

The little pimple, which comes sometimes on the eyelids, is known by the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO under the name of *acrida*, which is also that of the grasshopper; and the remedy is to pierce this pimple with a grain of barley.

The only remedy that is employed in the disease which, from the extremity of ARABIA, has spread over all EUROPE, the small-pox\*, consists in hartshorn dissolved in water.

The Greeks treat bites of serpents by deep incisions on the wound with a razor, so that the blood flows copiously, and by applications of VENICE treacle and sow-thistle, which they call *tchokous*. I shall resume this article, when I come to speak of the animals natural to those countries.

\* AARON of ALEXANDRIA, a priest and physician of the seventh century, is the first who made known the small-pox, in a treatise in the Syriac language.

My intention not being to present a complete ocursoe of the practical physic of the islanders of the ARCHIPELAGO, I shall stop here to speak of death, which ends by destroying all mankind, whether they be surrounded by learned physicians, or abandoned to the hereditary routine of empiricism: they have, for every curative resource, nothing but recipes, the greater part superstitious, like those of the old women of GREECE. It is not, however, very certain that people die sooner in countries where there are no physicians, than in those where they are common: it is not the fault of physic, but that of the men who have frequent need of it, from the excesses of an intemperate and irregular life.

All the expressions and marks of grief that the most lively sensibility can inspire are displayed among the Greeks, on the death of a person beloved, and present scenes extremely affecting. Regret, tears, melting adieus, attend the departed to the grave; it is not the cold and momentary transports which custom prescribes, all the movements of which etiquette regulates and marks out, and which affect not more those who are witnesses of them, than those who appear to be moved by them. There, nothing is feigned;

grief takes its full scope, and one throws one's self into the arms of death, with the certainty of living for a long time in the memory and in the hearts of one's relations and friends; a consoling idea, which makes one descend into the grave without regret, and smoothes the road of eternity.

The shades of the dead do not wander forsaken amidst the solitude of tombs; parents and married people frequently go and fix them by their prayers and their sobb; and these duties of sentiment, entirely disdained among nations that boast of their civilization, as if it could consist of the excess of insensibility, are performed and renewed with the same frankness, and with the same marks of remembrance and grief. Frequent offerings of cakes, wine, rice, fruits, and other dishes, adorned with flowers and ribands, are carried to the grave; they are there consumed and distributed; and this sort of repast, in which the Greeks likewise endeavour to make the dead person participate, is called *coliva*. The priest blesses it, and takes a good share of it. Abundant alms approximate to wretchedness the misfortune of the soul; what death would have eaten in bread, meat, and fruits, during a whole year, is distributed to the poor.



poor. Mourning, as well as every sign of affliction, is prolonged; the men suffer their beard to grow; the women neglect their dress: all avoid assemblies, even those of the church; and by the negligence which reigns in their exterior, and the dejection of their countenance, demonstrate the profound melancholy by which they are overwhelmed.

I was one day called, in great haste, to bleed a young and charming *papadia*: the reader may remember that this is the name of the wife of a *papas*, or secular priest. She had, as I was told, fallen into a swoon, in consequence of a violent remedy which had been administered to her. I found her extended on her bed in a room rather large, but heated by several fires, and still more by about two hundred persons, who were in lamentation. The extreme heat of this apartment would have been sufficient to suffocate a person in the best health. On my approach, the crowd made way; a silence, which was scarcely interrupted by a few smothered sobs, reigned in the apartment: I was regarded as a man who was going to pronounce an oracle: every eye, as well as every one's attention, was directed towards me; an uneasy hope had taken possession of every mind. The

young woman seemed to slumber; her cheeks had lost nothing of their colour, and her rosy lips were agreeably closed against each other. She was, nevertheless, without movement, without pulse, and without respiration: a few drops of volatile alkali, introduced into her nose, made no impression; her extremities were cold, and every thing announced that she no longer existed. Her relations, who surrounded the bed of death, did not think that all had been done; they required the trial of a bleeding; but the particular sound conveyed to my ear on introducing my lancet into her arm, demonstrated to me that it was entering into dead flesh. I announced that every hope was lost; and scarcely had I finished these words, when all those present, men and women, crowded round the corpse, threw themselves on the bed, at the same time striking themselves on the forehead, tearing their hair, and venting cries of despair. They called on the dead woman with a loud voice, requested her to live, and entreated her not to forsake them. I found myself in a very awkward predicament: I was no longer seen, no farther attention was paid to me. I was squeezed on all sides, pushed on the bed, and almost smothered. I had much difficulty to  
extricate

extricate myself from this embarrassment, and force my way through the crowd, in order to escape from a place which no longer presented any thing but the delirium of affliction.

The next day, I saw the funeral procession of this same woman: she was borne on a kind of litter, with her face uncovered, and dressed in her wedding clothes. Her mouth was filled with cotton: it is a universal custom, among the nations of the East, to stop closely with cotton every aperture of the body; and the Greeks never fail, when a person has expired, to open doors and windows, in order that the angels may come in and go out freely.

A great number of persons formed the procession. In towns, hired female mourners vent plaintive cries; but this luxury of grief is unknown in the greater part of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; no one is paid to cry, and people cry themselves with much bitterness. The female relations of the dead woman were particularly distinguishable, from the excess of their groans and the movements of their affliction: they struck and tore their breast; their long hair, unbraided and undressed, fell loose on their shoulders and

and neck, and from time to time they pulled off locks of it; the blood gushed from their head, and their tears were mingled with the drops of blood which flowed from their cheeks, torn by their nails. It is not possible to paint the agitation of soul with which these feeling and loving women were transported; and I was so struck by it, that I shall long preserve the impression of melancholy left on my mind by the violence of their affliction.

## CHAPTER XXX.

*State of agriculture in the islands of the Archipelago. — Ivraie. — Practices used in the sowing of corn. — Mixture of corn. — Two months' corn. — Manner of preserving corn. — Hares. — Vulgar error respecting those animals. — Rabbits. — Sporting dogs. — Foxes. — Moles. — Weasel. — Hedge-hog. — Birds which live constantly in the islands of the Archipelago, and those which are birds of passage.*

IN the course of this work, I have presented several details concerning the agriculture of the Orientals in general, and of the Greeks in particular. To these I shall add others that will complete the knowledge of the state in which this very important branch of public economy is in our days in the LEVANT.

Agriculture, the energetic spring of the prosperity of nations, and the source of their riches, languishes wherever it is oppressed by slavery and an arbitrary and violent government. If we compare its present situation in countries



countries where the climate and the soil concur to invite and preserve fertility, with what it was formerly, and what it may once more become there, the mind is again tormented by the painful recollections which arise at every step.

The farmers of most of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO have neither means nor industry. Two sorry oxen there draw a bad plough, the share of which scarcely divides the surface of the soil. One single ploughing precedes the sowing; the sower follows the plough, and scatters the seed to right and left. The harrow is not in use; accordingly the seed sown is partly the prey of several species of animals which arrive in seed time, that is, in the month of November, and particularly ring-doves.

The little attention that is paid to the choice of wheat seed, the wild plants which grow at liberty in the fields, and there scatter their seeds, render the crops extremely encumbered by a foreign and frequently hurtful vegetation. Tares, which the Greeks call *ira*, are there very abundant; and as they do not always take time to separate them from the good grain, especially during the years of scarcity, which the detestable administration

of

of these islands renders frequent, the bad effects of its mixture is felt pretty frequently in the bread; violent headaches and pains of the stomach, dimness of sight, in short, complete stupefaction are the consequence of this bad food, the fruit of negligence and a certain sign of a miserable agriculture.

But the Greeks think to redeem the indifference which they betray in their rural labours, by superstitious practices, more scrupulously observed than the cares of a good culture. The first day of sowing time is a holiday for the owner; he dresses himself in his best clothes, invites his friends, and spends with them the day in feasting and diversion. All the time that the sowing lasts, one must not give, nor suffer fire to be taken from one's house to that of any neighbour: this precaution is the only one of which the Greeks make use for preserving their wheat from the rot.

These bad cultivators frequently sow the same field with two sorts of seed at a time; an operation which is imitated in several of our countries, by mixing wheat and barley, or one of these two grains with rye, and which good agriculture reprobates. In fact, the crops which this mixture produces lose in quality and in quantity; for the maturity of both

these

these plants not taking place at the same time, if the cultivator wait till the most backward grain be ripe, the ears of the other lose their corn, and become empty: if, on the contrary, he gather in his harvest as soon as the most forward grain is ripe, the other, which is not so, produces almost nothing, and spoils the good by its mixture at the mill, and in being made into bread. It appears that the legislator of the Jews was sensible of the inconveniences of the mixture of several species of corn in sowing land, in use in the East, when he forbids them to sow together two different sorts of grain.

When, in this mixture of corn-feed, wheat and barley are in equal quantity, the Greeks call it *migadi*; when there is more barley than wheat, the same mixture takes the name of *yénima*. They sow a sort of wheat which they call *diminiti*, that is, of two months, because, in fact, it requires only two or three months to arrive at its maturity. This species is much esteemed in the LEVANT; it yields more flour in proportion than other corn, and the bread which is made of it is finer and better flavoured. It is sown in March or April; its stalk rises less than that of the other

other wheats, but the straw which it furnishes is reckoned to be hurtful to cattle.

For cutting the crops, sickles are made use of in GREECE; the sheaves are carried to a threshing-floor made in the fields; oxen and asses tread them under foot, and cause the grain to come out of the ear. The corn is afterwards collected; it is winnowed, and buried, for forty or fifty days, in holes prepared for receiving it every year: the Greeks assert, that after that time it keeps better, and that it is never attacked by weevils. The utility of this very simple method ought to induce us to make a trial of it in our countries, where we have so much difficulty in preserving corn from the ravages of insects.

Game is in plenty in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; but it is there laborious to pursue it through thick bushes, or on a soil closely strewn with rocks, or covered with stones. Hares are there very common; their fur is gray, in which they differ from ours, which are fawn colour, brown, or almost red. They are equally common in TURKEY, and on the continent of GREECE. The law of MAHOMET, as well as that of the Jews, forbids the use of the flesh of the hare; but the Turks of CONSTANTINOPLE, SALONICA, and

and the other large trading cities, having become less scrupulous observers of the dietetic regimen prescribed by their religious code, have determined to pursue hares and eat them. The only precaution which they take, when they have brought down any game, is to hasten to bleed it in the neck, in order not to infringe a law which forbids them to make use of the flesh of an animal that has not been bled; and this precaution hurts the flavour of game, and in particular deprives the hare, whose blood is very sweet and delicate, of that which contributes most to make it a good dish.

The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, who have preserved to the hare its ancient name of *lagos*, are also great destroyers of this species of game. They go in quest of these animals on the rocky mountains, of which their islands are formed; they nimbly climb to the top of the steepest; they clear the precipices; and in these excursions, fatiguing to excess, and even dangerous for an European who might attempt to follow them, they seem to dispute the palm with the bouquetins which inhabit the same rocks, and which they likewise find means to surprise in retreats inaccessible to all others but these islanders.

The



The leverets of GREECE, like all those of the more southern countries, have all their hair curling at their birth, and while very young. The same appearances have produced, in all places, nearly the same errors, which are accredited more or less, according as the number of intelligent observers is more or less considerable. It has been said (this is not solely a popular error, it has been written by grave authors) and, in general, it passes for a certainty in the LEVANT, that hares are hermaphrodites; that the males engender like the females, or rather, that there is no distinct sex in this species of animals, since, passing alternately from the one to the other, they are males during one month, and females during another month, and since Nature has condemned them thus to change, every thirty days, enjoyments and functions, which would form a mode of existence the most whimsical that can be imagined. This ridiculous opinion, wholly destitute of sense, and which is owing to accidents rather trifling in the genital parts of hares\*, is also adopted by the Europeans who

\* See the details of the conformation of those parts, in the *Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes*, by BUFFON, SONNINI's edition, vol. xxiv. page 203, and following.

frequent the LEVANT. I have often had to maintain warm disputes on this subject. Hares were instanced to me, as being well acknowledged for males, in whose inside young ones had been found on opening them. But what appeared a demonstration to eyes prepossessed, and little exercised, was in mine no more than a very simple effect of an inattentive examination; and as I was very far from yielding to this pretended proof, ignorance, besides, being now and then accompanied by rudeness and vulgarity, my adversaries ended by being seriously angry at my obstinacy in contending against what they called incontestable proofs.

Rabbits, to which warmth appears favourable, are also very numerous in the EAST. They are seen in the Islands of CYPRUS, of CANDIA, &c. and in those of the ARCHIPELAGO. These animals are likewise to be found on the uninhabited islets which are in the vicinity of the large islands, or of the continent.

I saw no pointers in the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; but I there found a very handsome breed of setters, which would be excellent for the field, if they were broken in: they have an admirable nose, and are lively,  
indefatigable,

indefatigable, and very enterprising. I had for a long time a dog of this breed, which, though of a small size, possessed undaunted courage. One day I shewed him two goats straying on some rocky hills, by the sea-shore. Great as was the agility with which those animals leaped from rock to rock, my dog presently overtook one of them, and strangled it immediately; he then set out in pursuit of the other goat, which, finding itself pressed, jumped into the sea, and swam near a quarter of a league towards the offing. The dog followed it thither, also overtook it, and, after a contest of a few minutes, in the middle of the sea, which was, nevertheless, agitated by a swell, he killed it, and brought it dead to my feet on the beach, where I was waiting for him. These Greek dogs have, in general, eyes very small, but extremely quick.

The other wild quadrupeds of the Greek islands are by no means numerous. No wolves are found there; but in the larger islands, such as the Island of Scio, are foxes, whose race is much smaller than that of our countries, and their tail much more bushy. The Greeks call this animal *alepo*. Moles are there very scarce, as well as in other parts of the East. I never met with any: I was assured

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assured, however, that some were to be found, but in very small numbers, in the Isle of Scio, and that they did not there make themselves remarkable by the havock which renders them so formidable to our farmers. The Greeks of the Island of Scio call the mole *tiphlopoudikos*, that is, blind rat. Rats, mice, as well as martins and weasels, are animals common to almost all the islands.

The laws of ancient EGYPT placed the weasel under their safe-guard; it was even worshipped in THEBAÏS. There are still to be found in EGYPT traces of this ancient respect for an animal, which is there common, and which may enter the houses, and commit havock with impunity. This sort of consideration for a noxious animal has been extended and preserved throughout all the LEVANT. The Turks, as well as the Greeks, suffer it to live among them in full liberty; it has nothing to dread, either from the one or the other: the Greek women carry their attention so far as not to disturb it, and they even treat it with a politeness truly whimsical. “*Welcome,*” say they, when they perceive a weasel in their house; “*come in, my pretty wench; no harm shall happen to you here: you are quite at home; pray make*”  
“*free*”

“free, &c. &c.” They affirm that, sensible of these civilities, the weasel does no mischief; whereas every thing would be devoured, add they, if they did not behave to this animal in a courteous manner. The name that it bears in these countries is as much connected with the manner in which it is welcomed there as with the beauty of its skin. The Turks call it *gullendish*; and the Greeks, *niphista*: these two words signify, in both languages, *bride*.

The hedge-hog which I had seen in LOWER EGYPT, in the environs of ALEXANDRIA, where the Arabs call it *confhefs*, is scattered all over the LEVANT. I met with it in CARAMANIA, in NATOLIA, in MACEDONIA, in the MOREA, and in some of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO.

Almost all the species of birds of our countries are met with in the LEVANT, whether they live there constantly, or do no more than pass thither. I shall give the enumeration of these species, at the same time distinguishing those which are sedentary in these countries from the species which are there only birds of passage. I shall not speak of them all, but merely of those which I have observed. This account will throw fresh light



on the regular migrations of birds: the different routes which they follow, and the chart of which has been drawn by natural instinct, are not yet much known; and this itinerary of the birds of our countries, forced to change every year their climate, in order to provide for their subsistence, is one of the most curious and most interesting facts of natural history.

The period of the passage of birds into the Islands of GREECE varies according to the winds which there prevail. At the end of the summer of 1779, this passage was delayed, because the northerly winds, which are accustomed to reign during that season, blew much later than in other years, and the birds which then go to the south, were obliged to wait for a wind that might favour them in their passage. Accordingly, the period of their passing was of shorter duration that year; the birds, eager to arrive in countries where they were to find warmth of temperature and abundance of food, hastened to repair thither as soon as the favourable wind had sprung up. Another general remark is, that in the spring-passage, that is, on their return to our climates, birds travel in bodies less numerous, and are more dispersed than  
in

in their passage in autumn; and this sort of disunion constitutes their safety: being separated, they more easily escape the snares which are spread for them on all sides on their journey. They are also very lean in the spring; while, generally speaking, they are very fat in their autumnal migration.

Hawks remain during the whole year in most of the Greek islands. They retire by night into the holes of the rocks, and particularly into those of the walls of solitary windmills. They lay their eggs at the end of April, or at the beginning of May, and their little brood is hatched in the beginning of June; these little ones are then covered with a gray down, which they preserve upwards of a fortnight. These birds are great destroyers of grasshoppers and crickets; they are very greedy after them, and, from this natural appetite, they render service to agriculture, by ridding it of noxious insects, which generate with a disastrous fecundity, under a climate favourable to their multiplication. I brought up a young bird of prey of this species, taken in the nest a few days after its birth; I scarcely gave it any thing but grasshoppers, crickets, and flies; it appeared very

fond of them, and greedily swallowed those insects quite whole, however large they might be.

Several other species of birds of prey, such as the falcon, the kite, &c. appear to remain all the year in the Islands of the LEVANT, and there spread alarm and carnage among innocent families of little birds. Some kites, however, are there birds of passage. Birds of night are there likewise settled, and never quit their gloomy abodes, which they cause to re-echo with their mournful cries in silence and darkness.

Among the small species of birds of prey, the passage of the rufous magpies is very remarkable. Their annual migration, pretty generally admitted, has been unseasonably disputed by a modern naturalist\*. It is about the 14th of the month of August that they pass into the southern Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, in order to repair to Egypt, and probably also to the coast of BARBARY. Notwithstanding the length of their voyage, as, in this hot season, they meet in their route with a great quantity of insects, on which they principally subsist, they are then very

\* LE VAILLANT, *Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux d'AFRIQUE*, article *magpie*.

fat, and are, besides, delicate eating. The Greeks catch a great many of them; but it is on their arrival on the shores of EGYPT, that is, towards the middle of September, that they afford greater scope to their own destruction, by their union and fatigue, which deprive them of the faculty of escaping the snares that are laid for them. The Arabs pursue them with nets, and they take a somewhat considerable number of them, which they carry alive to market, after having confined their bill with one of their large wing-feathers, in order to avoid the effects of their mischievousness. They do not remain long in LOWER EGYPT, and I imagine that they continue their route towards ARABIA, a country that gives birth to a multitude of grasshoppers, which are, for the magpie, choice food. The Arabs call this bird *dagnoafs*; the Greeks, *varo-kephalos*, that is, *heavy head*; and the Provençals, *darnagua*.

The vulture, properly so called, makes its appearance sometimes in the islands; it is more common on the continent. Its fat is esteemed, by the Turks and Greeks, a very good topical remedy for curing, or at least for alleviating, rheumatic pains. The name of this bird, in vulgar Greek, is *skannia*.

If,

If, from this class of destructive birds, living only by rapine or feeding on carcases, we pass to the peaceable and useful gallinaceous tribe, we shall find in the poultry-yards of several parts of the LEVANT, the most beautiful species of hens, and at the same time the most fruitful.

In the plains and on the mountains, red partridges, and bartavelles or Greek partridges, are very numerous ; but it is as difficult to get at them as at hares, when, quitting the vallies, they retire to steep mountains, in the midst of rocks, precipices, and clumps of bushy and close set shrubs. They there feed on the fruits of the juniper, the *kedros*, the lentisk, &c. &c. The berries of this last-mentioned shrub, in particular, occasion their flesh to contract, especially in the hind parts, a strong bitter flavour. These partridges are the most plentiful, as well as the best game in the LEVANT. They are, in some of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, in prodigious quantities, and are there sold at a very low price. The young partridges are hatched in the beginning of May, and they are good to be eaten in June. They are most commonly pursued with a gun ; the fowler keeping himself concealed, or surprising them when they  
come



come to drink near some spring. In some places, snares are set for them, or they are enclosed in nets; in the MOREA, they are caught with a net, into which they are attracted by the image of a partridge painted on canvass.

The gray partridge is not known in the EAST. A Greek might, like ATHENÆUS, again manifest surprise that all the partridges of ITALY had not a red bill, as they had in his country. We begin to meet with the gray species in the north of TURKEY, in the environs of CONSTANTINOPLE and of SALONICA, together with the red species; the former keeps on the plains; and the latter, on the mountains.

Independently of these two species of partridges, we also sometimes see in the EAST another smaller species, which is called *the little gray partridge*, or *the DAMASCUS partridge* of ALDROVANDUS\*, a very roving species, but which does not always follow the same routes; it is also a bird of passage in several countries of EUROPE, and even in northern climates; they there appear in great bodies, but at distant intervals, not regularly

\* *Tetrao damascinus*. LINN.

every year, and only for some days; so that the passage of these very rambling birds cannot be fixed, nor the route which they take well ascertained, any more than the motive of this erratic life. Neither does it appear that the season or the nature of the climate has any sort of influence on the excursions of this species of partridge; it is often found, and in great numbers, on the heated sands of EGYPT, where it is called *katta*: on the other hand, it appears as frequently, during the cold months of December and January, in the north of TURKEY, where it arrives in autumn, and I saw very numerous covies of them, which made their appearance only for a few days in a district of the *ci-devant* LORRAINE, during the winter of 1783.

In some places of this work, as well as in that which I have published respecting EGYPT, I have spoken of the prodigious flocks of quails that arrive in the EAST, prodigious from the long passage that birds, which scarcely appear to possess the faculty of flying, venture to undertake over the waters of the sea, as much as from the innumerable multitude of which they are composed. These birds, in order to proceed to their destination, follow a uniform route, from which they seldom deviate;

ate; they do not pass to all the Islands of the MEDITERRANEAN, whereas they abound in some, and a small number only is seen in others. The Greeks call them *ortiki*. The inhabitants of the Island of SANTORIN, where quails pass in very large bodies, lay in an ample stock of them, and preserve them pickled in vinegar. On the coast of the MOREA, and particularly at MAINE, they are salted, and afterwards brought for sale to the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO: at CERIGO, they are salted in the same manner; but, thus prepared, quails are very bad eating. Every where death awaits these feeble travellers, and they do not escape, but with considerable difficulty, the inconstancy of the elements and the snares of man. In the spring, they are seen to pass into the Islands of the LEVANT, which happen to lie on their route, commonly on the 20th of August, and to repass there on the 20th of April, in order to return to our climates; some remain, or some are passing during the whole month of September.

In the most northern Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, pheasants are sometimes seen during the winter; they come thither from the woods of THESSALIA, where they are in great numbers. The peasants of the en-  
vrons

virons of SALONICA breed them in the country-places, for the purpose of bringing them to the market of the town, and they are there so common, that they may be purchased at a very low price. It is principally the district of the little town of SERES, eight or nine leagues to the east of SALONICA, that furnishes them in greater abundance. Masters of vessels who, during the winter, frequent the port of SALONICA, scarcely ever fail to lay in a stock of live pheasants, which they keep on board in hen-coops, and feed with wheat. These birds appeared to me larger and handsomer than those of our countries. It is an amusement for the rich Turks of SALONICA, to fly at them birds of prey, which they carry on their fist. When the pheasant takes its flight, the bird of prey, which they let loose, hovering above, compels it to perch on some tree; he then places himself on another over its head, and keeps it in so great a fright that it suffers itself to be approached and easily taken quite alive.

When the winter is cold, cocks of the wood make their appearance in the highest mountains of some of the islands, and of those which are situated farthest to the south, such as the Isle of MILO. They quit them as soon

as the weather becomes milder. It would be an easy matter to kill some of them; but the Greeks set no value on this bird, which they call *agriò gallo*, wild cock.

Above these same mountains, which offer to the sight nothing but shattered rocks, ravens are seen hovering during the winter, together with some vultures. These two species of birds, equally ignoble, endeavour, when poised in the air, to discover rats and small lizards, which are numerous in the clumps of shrubs that grow between the rocks. The name of the raven, in modern Greek, is *koraka*.

The hooded crow\* never quits the islands; I have seen it there in every season of the year. The carrion crow†, on the contrary, is there a bird of passage. Numerous flocks of them are commonly seen on the sea shore, where they feed on whatever is thrown up by the waves; in the evening they retire into the crannies of the rocks, in order to pass the night. The Provençals have preserved to this

\* *Corneille mantelée*. BUFFON, Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux.—*Corvus cornix*. LINN.

† *Corbine ou corneille noire*. BUFFON, Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux.—*Corvus corone*. LINN.



species its ancient French name of *graille* or *graye*, and the Greeks call it *kouronna*. They make use of its flesh cut into pieces as bait, which they fasten to their fish-hooks; they practise this manner of fishing, when bad weather prevents them from putting to sea.

Magpies are to be found almost in every place where there are many trees, and they quit not the district in which they have taken up their abode.

Flights of starlings appear sometimes during the winter; and although their flesh is black, lean, hard, and ill-tasted, the Greeks kill them and eat them. It is said, that when the starling, whose name, in modern Greek, is *macro poulo*, that is, black bird, eats figs or dates, it becomes fat, and makes a dainty dish.

A bird, common in our woods and remarkable for its brilliant colours, the jay, which the present Greeks call *falko kouronna*, and the Provençals *bluret*, arrives, like most of the other birds of passage, about the middle of August, in the Islands of GREECE, and at the same time as the turtles. During this journey, it is commonly seen alone, perched on the bushes, and making flights, short and low. Its flesh is at that time much loaded

with fat; but it is not better than in our countries, on account of the disagreeable flavour with which it is impregnated. Independently of the jays of passage, there are some which remain all the year in the large islands of the northern part of the ARCHIPELAGO, as that of Scio. These birds there build their nests, and lay in them four, five, and even six eggs; they feed on olives, cherries, walnuts, and acorns of the species of oak which grows there; they make great havock in the plantations of fruit-trees, and are not contented with devouring the fruit on the very trees, but make of it heaps, which they carefully conceal in the ground, and which they know how to find again in case of need. The Sciots amuse themselves in rearing jays; they cut the string of their tongue, an operation which gives to certain species of birds, and to jays in particular, the facility of articulating words, and imitating the cry of different animals. In the Island of Scio, I have heard jays which mimicked extremely well the barking of the dog, the mewing of the cat, the bleating of the sheep, &c. The name of this bird, in modern Greek, is *kisa*.

The bird with brilliant plumage, which makes our woods resound with its sonorous

whistling, the loriot, arrives in the southern Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, at the period when figs are in a state of maturity; that is, at the beginning of August; this fruit is choice food, and gives to its flesh a delicacy which it wants in the countries where the fig-tree does not grow. And, indeed, the Greeks give to this bird the name of *sykophagos*, fig-eater, and, by corruption, in some islands, that of *sykophia*. The passage of the loriots in these islands scarcely lasts till the month of September; the greater part proceed to LOWER EGYPT, where they in like manner seek fig-trees, as well as mulberry-trees; the inhabitants shoot them, on account of the good quality of their flesh; but they stay little more than a fortnight in this part of EGYPT, and they pursue their route towards the EAST, in order to find there a suitable climate and an abundance of food.

*Tsiclès* is the name which the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO give to thrushes, without distinction of species. Some are birds of passage, and others do not quit the islands. During the summer, they are found scattered in the gorges of the mountains; on the approach of the fowler, they penetrate into the middle of the thick bushes, whence it  
is

is a very difficult matter to make them rise. In the winter they approach the inhabited places; they keep and run on the ground, alight on high stones, points of rocks, little garden-walls, and shrubs which grow between the rocks; and when the cold is felt with any degree of sharpness, and the north wind blows with violence, as I saw happen in the month of January 1779, those birds seek shelter round the habitations, and even enter the houses, in order to secure themselves from the wind and cold.

Like the thrushes, the blackbirds are, some birds of passage, others stationary in the LEVANT; those which travel thither, arrive and depart at the same period as the thrushes; they all live there in the same manner; but they do not collect in small bodies, but are commonly seen in pairs.

I shall add nothing to what I have said\* of the bird with a sonorous voice, with a powerful and agreeable warbling, with which we are acquainted by the name of *solitary black-bird*; it is not peculiar to the Island of CANDIA; it also frequents the remote and stony mountains of several Islands of the

\* See Chapter xx. page 390.

ARCHIPELAGO: in some of them it bears the name of *psaro smeroula*.

Bee-eaters\*, which the Provençals call *serènes*, and the Greeks *meliso orghi*, enemies to bees, arrive in the Islands of the LEVANT in the middle of August, and repass in spring. Their rapid flight renders them difficult to be killed; however, they are very good eating. I have frequently seen them, in the month of April, assemble in numerous flocks in little districts planted with olive-trees, in order to pass the night; but they there make only a temporary stay, and the next day I no longer found them in the same place. These birds fly and hover in the manner of swallows, in order to catch the winged insects, of which they make their habitual food; and, in this series of rapid movements, they vent a simple, grave, and soft cry, accompanied from time to time by a cracking noise of their bill.

At the same time as the rufous wood-chats, that is, about the middle of August, the fly-catchers† are seen to make their appearance.

\* *Le guépier*. BUFFON, Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux.—*Merops apiaster*. LINN.

† *Le gobe-mouche*, première espèce, BUFFON, Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux.—*Muscicapa grisola*. LINN.



In the LEVANT, these two species are not even distinguished, at least by different names; the Provençals who frequent those countries, confound them under the denomination of *darnagua*, and the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO under that of *varo kephalos*, heavy head, which they alike give to the rufous wood-chat and to the fly-catcher; and this character of the bigness of the head, compared to that of the body, is so striking, that, in some parts of our southern departments, it is commonly said of any one who has a big head, that he has the head of a *darnagua*.

No sooner do the farmers begin to sow the fields in the Greck islands, at the period of the first rains, which fall at the end of October, than there are seen to arrive from all quarters considerable flights of ring-doves, troublesome parasites, that rob the land of its corn, the source of the riches which the cultivator intrusts to it. There are some of different sizes, which appear to form certain races: they are birds of passage, and, most commonly, very fat, different from wild pigeons, which remain during the whole year, live and build their nests in the holes of the rocks, and whose flesh is dry and hard. The

modern Greeks give the ring-dove the name of *fassa*, and to the wild pigeon that of *pelisteri*.

The flesh of the turtles, whose passage is regular in the ARCHIPELAGO, is scarcely better than that of the wild pigeons, when they appear there in the spring, for about twenty days: they do not suffer themselves to be approached without difficulty, and their leanness constitutes their safety; for, in that season, no one takes much trouble to get within gun-shot of them. But towards the end of the month of August, when they return, they acquire more plumpness and delicacy. Then the Greeks make war on them, and destroy them in great numbers. It is particularly in the Island of POLICANDRO that they abound on their return, and that they meet with almost certain death. Those which avoid destruction, come the following year to expose themselves to the same dangers that they had escaped: instinct, which traces to birds of passage the route on which they are to find a certain subsistence, is more powerful than the care of preserving themselves from the snares that await them on every point of their journey, because this instinct is an inspiration of Nature; and the accidents

idents and dangers with which man ceases not to encompass them, are accidents which may be considered as out of the sphere of Nature, and which, consequently, cannot be conceived but by man, the only animated being that makes it his principal study incessantly to counteract her.

The inhabitants of POLICANDRO pickle in vinegar, in large jars, turtles, in the same manner as those of SANTORIN preserve quails. The latter likewise preserve turtles, but in a smaller quantity than at POLICANDRO, because the passage of those birds is less numerous in their islands.

However, those turtles of passage are of the species which has the top of the head and of the neck cinereous; the breast of a vinous colour; a sort of collar of black feathers, tipped with white, checquered above and below the neck; the back and the rump cinereous and fawn colour; the rest of the under part of the body white, with a vinous tint, which grows weaker in proportion as it approaches the lower part of the belly, where it disappears entirely; the greater wing-coverts the nearest to the body, black, with a broad fawn colour border; the others cinereous; the wing-quills brown above, and gray

brown beneath; the tail blackish above, black beneath, and tipped with white; the first quill, that is, the outermost on each side, having its exterior side entirely white; the feet red; and, lastly, the claws black. When these birds are roasted, their red feet change colour, and there exudes from them drops of a liquor of a beautiful gold yellow hue.

To the cuckoo is given the name of *trigono krakti*, which signifies *conductor of turtles*, because it passes into the Islands of the LEVANT at the same time as those birds; and as the species of the cuckoo is less numerous, commonly no more than one is seen in the middle of a flight of turtles, of which it seems to be the leader. The Greeks call it *ksefteri*, and they say of a person who has a step and countenance lively, but at the same time by no means natural, that he walks like a *ksefteri*, or a cuckoo. It is important to observe, that this bird, when arrived in another country, changes almost all the natural habits which we distinguish in it; for it finds not, on the islands which serve it as resting-places during its journey, forests nor even thickets sufficiently large and close for it to retire to, as in our countries: it ceases also to be a solitary bird; it keeps with other birds of its species,

species, and even travels in numerous company with a species which is quite foreign to it; neither does it cause to be heard the song of love, which its name expresses, and which, among the common people, is likewise the declaration of infidelity. Very lean at the time of its passing in spring, it returns in autumn loaded with fat, and is then reckoned to be very good eating.

The two epochs of the passage of the hoopoe into the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO are at the end of March and the beginning of August. This bird, which the Provençals name *putugue*, is called by the Greeks *xilopedino*, wood-chicken; at SCIO, *sala petino*. It is a tolerably good sort of game, and is eaten, not only in the LEVANT, but in ITALY, and even in PROVENCE. It is somewhat remarkable that, in all the southern countries, the hoopoe is eaten, while, in our northern departments, it causes disgust by its bad smell.

Sparrows, the bold parasites of our plains, assemble in the EAST, as with us, wherever Fertility has fixed her abode; their concourse round the habitations, and under the roofs of farmers, is a certain sign of the abundance which there reigns, and of the flourishing state of agriculture: we may, without fear  
of



of being mistaken, judge of the richness or the poorness of a district by the number of sparrows which are there to be found; and wherever there are none, poverty prevails. It is for this reason that those birds, very common in the LEVANT, and the habitual guests of the people of that country, do not frequent the miserable Island of ARGENTIERA, except for a few moments at the period of sowing-time, when they come to steal part of the seed; while they inhabit, in great numbers, the more fertile islands, and in particular that of MILO, whence they come sometimes to ARGENTIERA to exercise their easy robberies.

The bunting, which the Greeks call *psaroni*, passes at the beginning of winter and in the month of March. In autumn, it is seen on the ground, in the sown fields, and sometimes perched on lentisks. In spring, it frequents these same stripped fields, and alights more frequently on shrubs: it does not bide alone, but always in flocks, which the inhabitants pursue, because the bird is, in general, tolerably fat, and good to be eaten.

Another species of small bird, which passes in considerable numbers into some of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO at the same period

period as the bunting, is the *lougarò* of the Greeks, which is our greenfinch.

The stone-chatter, a restless bird, appeared to me not to quit the Islands of the LEVANT, where it finds, all the year round, insects on which it feeds.

I presume, on the contrary, that the wheat-eater is not attached the whole year to the soil of the islands, and that it comes thither in the spring, and at the end of the autumn. In GREECE it bears the name of *aspro-kolo*, or *cul-blanc* (white arse), by which it is commonly distinguished in our countries. It lives alone, like the stone-chatter, and individuals of this species do not assemble in flocks; they almost always keep on the top of shrubs, or on the point of rocks.

The bird which, from its vivacity, and the *allegro* of its song, has deserved to represent the emblem of gaiety\*, the chaffinch, does not always remain in our climates during the winter. The species is half-sedentary and half-roving; and observation has not yet led to a discovery of the causes which determine chaffinches to seek, at a distance, a mild

\* The French say, proverbially, *gai comme un pinson*, as we say, *gay as a lark*.

temperature, while others remain in the midst of our rural habitations, where they brave the rigour of the hoar-frosts, and share with the sparrows the food which the farmer's wife distributes to her poultry. Some are seen to arrive in the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, towards the end of October, and they go thither with attributes which lead to their destruction; their flesh is then fat and tolerably delicate. But among the great number of these birds which I saw in the islands, I remarked some whose plumage indicated young birds of the year, which might lead me to suspect, with much probability, that those chaffinches came not from any great distance, and that they had nested in some neighbouring land. The Greeks of the greater part of the islands call the chaffinch *moudakio*; and the people of Scio, *spinor*.

Nightingales are seen sometimes, but rather seldom, to pass into the same islands, at the end of the summer: it appears that their route is directed more to the south; they live, during the severe season, in the verdant and smiling plains of LOWER EGYPT, and perhaps also on the coasts of SYRIA and of BARBARY. During their passage, and their stay on shores which are foreign to them, since they do not  
there

there busy themselves about their reproduction, they warble not those melodious songs, those varied and brilliant modulations, with which they, night and day, make our woods and orchards resound : they are silent, because they have not to sing their loves.

In some parts of ASIA MINOR, as NATOLIA, the nightingale is rather common, and quits not the forests and groves which it has chosen. The modern Greeks have, very nearly, preserved to this bird, whose admirable singing does not save it from the gluttony of men, the name of *aedon*, which their ancestors had given it, and they still call it *adoni*, *aidoni*, or *agdoni*.

The charming species of little birds, whose aspect of sweet innocence, and whose engaging familiarity, cannot obtain favour in the eyes of man, who sacrifices every year thousands of them to the luxury and profusion of his table, the red-breast, arrives in the LEVANT in the month of October: the Greeks call it *yanni*, or *yannaki*. It seldom passes into the open islands ; but it seeks those which are shaded by numerous clumps of trees or shrubs, such as the Isle of Scio, where the red-breasts repair in crowds, and embellish the little woods of lentisks and wild myrtles, with which that  
luxuriant

luxuriant island is filled. These birds, for the most part, there find nothing but death: their number, as well as their innocent confidence; betrays them; and the Greek bird-catcher, like the fowler of our countries, wages against them a war the more cruel, as they come, with the candour of an interesting weakness, and present themselves, as it were, of their own accord, to the snares which he sets for them.

The same name of *yanni*, or *yannaki*, which the inhabitants of most of the Greek islands give to the red-breast, is likewise applied by them to another little bird of a different species, and which has some red on a part quite opposite to that which is so agreeably coloured in the red-breast: I mean the red-start, whose passage, or rather two passages, that of autumn and that of spring, take place at the same epoch as those of the red-breast. I have seen these little birds flutter about the rocks and shrubs the most exposed to the sun, in the early part of the spring, or at the beginning of March: they do not keep precisely in flocks; but are met with in tolerably great numbers; more scattered than assembled, in the same district.

We should frequently be led into an error; were we to adhere to the denominations which  
the



the modern Greeks give to birds, particularly to the small species, in order to distinguish them from each other. We have just seen that they confounded, under the same name, the red-breast and the red-start; and this name is also applied to other small birds. Thus it is that they call *Skardalio*, the common linnet, and a few other species. Linnets are also birds of passage among the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO: sometimes numerous flights of them are seen; they alight on the brambles, with which the soil is covered between the masses of rocks that compose the mountains.

The goldfinch, which bears the name of *karedino*, does not appear all the year in most of the islands: it is not, however, a traveller, or a bird of passage; but it prefers keeping in the large islands, and on the lands of the continent, where it finds places of shelter more safe, retreats more numerous and more agreeable, than on the naked summit of the mountains, which form the greater part of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO.

But on all these eminences, the remnant of a submerged continent, are seen wagtails and bergeronnettes: the former keep more willingly on them argin of rivulets and pools; the others

others prefer spreading themselves over the enclosures, and endeavour to approach the animals which are there fed, and they all diffuse a certain movement of life and gaiety on a soil frequently rugged and melancholy. Wagtails appear to be birds of passage, and bergeronnettes not to quit the places which have given them birth. During the winter, sometimes on rocky hills, and at a little distance from the sea, I met with bergeronnettes, which, to judge of them from their plumage, were very young. I was told, indeed, that those birds nestle, even in winter, on the little desert islands, whence they afterwards spread themselves throughout the larger ones. In EGYPT, I had seen a bergeronnette almost entirely of a dazzling white: at MILO, I met with a variety of the wagtail, all the under part of whose body was white.

Common larks make their appearance, frequently in flocks, in the plains of these elevated countries: here, too, is also seen the tit-lark, which is a bird of passage, and which the Maltese call *bourboli*. I am inclined to think that a few other birds of the same genus pass hither regularly twice a year.

Here likewise are seen several species of the tit-mouse; but I was not able to ascertain whether

whether they remained here always, or whether they were only temporary visitors.

The common wren\*, which the Provençals call *putois* and *père de la bécasse*, is a passenger in the Islands of the ÆGEAN SEA: it repairs to the coast of EGYPT, and is seen pretty frequently, during our winter, in the ever-heated environs of ALEXANDRIA, and of other places in LOWER EGYPT. This little bird, eaten quite raw, is, according to some physicians of the LEVANT, an excellent remedy for the stone in the bladder.

I also sometimes perceived, in clumps of lentisks, the little bird which, from its orange colour crown and its weakness, has obtained the name of *roitelet* (the gold-crested wren); and I have some reason to think that it fixes its abode in places which afford it a mild climate and abundance of food. At SCIO, it is called *vacilisko*, and in other islands, *regolago*.

Fig-peckers, birds whose delicate and savoury flesh constitutes one of the dishes in request for our tables, arrive in the LEVANT in the month of September, and there look for the figs as they ripen. The Island of

\* *Motacilla troglodytes*. LINN.

MALTA is a resting-place for these little birds, as well as for other species, such as quails, tit-larks, &c. &c. Their passage into that island is suspended when the west and north-west winds blow, and they arrive there only with those from the east and south-east.

On the 17th of March, I saw for the first time, in 1780, the swallow make its appearance at ARGENTIERA. The wind had been several days to the north-east; but in the night it had shifted to the west, the sky was serene, and the sun hot. The Greeks, like their ancestors, call the swallow *kelidoni*. The martin comes into the north of TURKEY in the month of April, and stays there to build its nest.

During the winter, the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO are sometimes covered with woodcocks, which are also birds of passage. They come thither most commonly from the mountains of the MOREA, where the cold is sharp, owing to the quantity of snow which falls there, and they go as far as LOWER EGYPT to seek a milder temperature. Snipes are likewise seen there during the same season.

Lapwings, like woodcocks, are winter travellers; they spread themselves over the islands when the cold, which there is never  
severe,

severe, begins to be felt, that is, in the month of January: they are but passengers, and they scarcely appear there for more than ten or twelve days. But on the coast of CARAMANIA, those birds are assembled in great numbers during the winter. In some of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, the lapwing is called *pélékoda*; and in others, *chimanitès*, or winter-bird.

Sea-larks, which the Provençals call *charlots de plage*, snipes, curlews, and particularly a multitude of ducks of several species, frequent the shores and waters of the islands, especially during the winter season, and are, with other water-fowl, the enumeration of which would occupy too much room in a work not solely intended for natural history, a resource which adds to the abundance and the variety of food.



## CHAPTER XXXI.

*Tortoises. — Snails. — Fishes of the Archipelago. — Importance of the fishery in the Archipelago. — Common cuttle-fish. — Eight-armed cuttle-fish. — Nautili. — Tethys. — Conchylia. — Sea-lungs. — Sea-urchins. — Sponges. — Crustacea. — Water caltrops.*

**SEA-TORTOISES** are rather common along the coasts of GREECE, and particularly near those of the MOREA. Land-tortoises appeared to me scarce in the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO: true it is, that they are not there in request, because they are not good to be eaten. They are sometimes employed for a very singular use; they are intrusted with the care of ridding the houses of the enormous quantity of fleas with which they are infested, especially during the summer. It is sufficient, say the Greeks, to place one of these tortoises in an apartment, to free it of fleas: those insects throw themselves in crowds, and with a sort of rage, into the

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mouth

mouth of the tortoise, which the heat occasions it to keep open; it swallows them as fast as they place themselves there, and it thus ends by destroying them all in the course of a few days. I have seen French navigators in the LEVANT have great confidence in this property of tortoises, and not fail to take some on board, in order to rid their ships of fleas, which there also multiply prodigiously in these warm climates.

On the early rains of the autumn, the inhabitants of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO pick up in the fields little snails, which at that time make their appearance there in very great numbers\*: they dress them, in order to eat them; and it is a very indifferent dish, which has no other merit than that of costing nothing, though this is of some consequence in the eyes of poor people, whom the government devotes to wretchedness, by stifling in them every germ of industry.

A very deep sea, whose waters cover a bottom almost entirely formed of sand and stones, and bathe a considerable extent of lands and rocks, which afford retreats and

\* The present Greeks call this small species of snails *saliaka*.

food to fishes, is an immense reservoir, whence men may derive inexhaustible means of subsistence. But fishing, like every other branch of industry, languishes under an administration which copiously pours forth discouragement; and the want of activity, which prevails in this important branch, a source of comfort and prosperity for people that can give themselves up to it without constraint, renders fish less abundant and dearer than it ought to be in the islands subject to the Ottoman empire. In fact, this part of the MEDITERRANEAN abounds with fishes of different species. I have already made mention of several of them: it remains for me to indicate a few others.

I have not unfrequently seen caught large ray-fish, of the species which our fishermen call the *pastenague* (the fire-flare); and the modern Greeks, *salakie*.

The *skaros*, a fish famous among the ancients, and which the inhabitants of modern GREECE still call *skaros*, is common in their sea. It keeps in the holes of the rocks which skirt the coasts; and it is even asserted, that it lives there in numerous societies, with fishes of its species, and that these societies have a chief, who directs them, and whom they follow

follow as soon as he issues from the retreat which they have chosen. It is, however, a very difficult matter to draw them out of their dark abode: and, indeed, they are never caught with the net, but are taken with hook and line. When the scarus has bitten at the hook, he is made fast to a string, and left in the water; then all those which are near the place quit their holes, surround the captive, and end by being hooked themselves. They feed on herbs, and the plants which grow in the water. The scarus is still dressed as in former times: the ancients said, that, on the table of the gods themselves, scari, whose entrails had been taken out, ought not to be served up; at present, even, they are never gutted, to appear on the table of men, and their inside is a delicate viand, which also communicates a flavour to their flesh.

Another species of rock-fish, which is frequently taken in the sea of GREECE, is the *sea-perch*. It has there preserved the name of *perke*, or *perkis*, which it bore among the Greeks of antiquity, and which is now pronounced *perka*. This is a fish very common in the MEDITERRANEAN, whereas, according to WILLUGHBY, none are to be found in the

waters of the OCEAN\*. BE'LO'N had made the same assertion before the English naturalist†. This fish does not become very large; it scarcely ever attains a foot in length; its flesh is soft, and far inferior in point of flavour to that of the river-perch, to which some people have thought proper to compare it: anciently it was held in no estimation, and OPPIAN ranks it among the fishes which the fisherman hastens to throw again into the sea‡. It cannot be doubted that GALEN meant the river-perch, when he says that it is a true rock-fish very well-tasted, although its flesh is soft and short§. RONDELET has asserted improperly that GALEN had in view the sea-perch||; WILLUGHBY, with reason, reproves the French ichthyologist on this subject, and he affirms, that it is incontestable, that the river-perch, from the goodness and wholesomeness of its flesh, is far preferable to the sea-perch\*\*. It is probable that RONDE-

\* Historia Piscium, lib. iv. cap. iii. page 327.

† De Aquatilibus, lib. i. page 268.

‡ ————— “*Piscator promptus in æquor*

“*Demittit percas et niliacos coracinos.*”

§ De Aliment. Facult. lib. iii.

|| Historia Piscium, lib. vi. cap. viii. page 120.

\*\*\* *Loco supra citato.*



LET, living on the southern coast of FRANCE, participated in the opinion of those of our time, who, accustomed to sea-fishes, of which they still heighten, by tart and heating sauces, the flavour that the sea-water occasions them to contract, no longer have any relish for the flesh of fresh water-fishes, and disdain it.

The Greek fishermen also take with hook and line another species of saxatile fishes, which live, like the sea-perch, in the holes of the rocks, but whose flesh is much more wholesome and savoury. This is the *sparus*, whose name of *spargo* recalls to mind that which it formerly bore in the same countries.

One of the fishes the most common in the sea of the ARCHIPELAGO, is the *sargus*\*, named by the ancient Greeks *sargos*; and by the moderns, *sargo*. It is a rather indifferent fish, whose flesh is hard, and almost always as tough as leather, which may even be discovered in dressing it; for, on being cooked, it shrinks and curls up.

Although the *sargus* keeps in the cavities of the rocks on the sea shore, as, from preference, it singles out those, the foot of which is covered with ooze and mire, it does not

\* *Sparus sargus*. LINN.

there acquire the good qualities which make other fishes, inhabitants of stony places, a delicate food. It is commonly taken with hook and line, and the hooks are baited with pieces of crow's flesh, a paste composed of flour and old cheese being first thrown into the surrounding water, by way of further allurement. But the fishermen who take the greatest number of fargi, and of all the other fishes of the ARCHIPELAGO, are the bold and vigorous divers of the Isle of SYMI. They spread themselves in all the channels with which the Greek islands are encompassed; and, while they are employed in fishing for sponges, they make an ample capture of fishes with which they supply these same islands, and it is then only that this kind of provision there becomes cheap. The Symiots commonly make use of a harpoon in the form of a trident, with which they pierce the fishes that they perceive at a great depth, and especially the fargi, which, keeping between the rocks of the coast, are more easily discovered.

I saw but seldom the *skarmos* of the modern Greeks, which appeared to me not to differ from the sea-trout.

The silvery-eyed red sparus\* is common,

\* *Sparus erythrinus*. LINN.

not however on the coasts of all the islands of the MEDITERRANEAN; but there is not any near which it appears more frequently than the little Island of LAMPEDOSA. The Greeks call it *lythrina*, a word corrupted from that of *erythinos*, which it bore anciently. This is a greedy fish, which not only devours fishes much smaller than itself, but also crustacea. In all those which I opened, I found remains of the *squilla gibba*, and the examination that I made of their interior parts, convinced me of the error of ARISTOTLE, who was of opinion that there existed no male in this species, for I saw several which had neither spawn nor ovarium. The flesh of the silvery-eyed sparus is white, fat, and of an exquisite taste; the best way of dressing it, is by frying, if we except perhaps the manner taught by JOVIUS, of which I have not made a trial, and which consists in frying it as soon as it comes out of the water, and in keeping it afterwards, for a few days, in orange juice. “ Thus  
“ dressed and preserved, the silvery-eyed red  
“ sparus,” says JOVIUS, “ surpasses all other  
“ fishes in point of the flavour and delicacy  
“ of its flesh\*.” PLINY has said that this

\* *De Romanibus Piscibus*; Romæ, 1524. folio.

species of sparus, left to putrify in wine, creates a disgust for that liquor in those who drink of it; but I do not believe that it is necessary to go a great way for a silvery-eyed red sparus, in order to produce such an effect, and every other fish that might be left in a state of putrefaction in wine, would be fit to inspire with disgust those who should have the courage to taste of it.

Among the rare fishes in the ARCHIPELAGO, must be reckoned the *king of the mullets* \*. I met with but a single one during my stay in the LEVANT, and the Greeks to whom I shewed it, in order to know its name, were not acquainted with it.

But the real mullet, the bearded mullet †, that exquisite fish, which the cruel luxury of ancient ROME caused to be cooked over a slow fire, on the tables even, and under a glass, in order that the guests might enjoy the sight of the beautiful shades produced by the slow degradation of its charming red colour, and, as it were, feed their eyes with the sufferings of the fish, before they satiated themselves with its flesh; the real mullet, I say, is frequently taken in the ARCHIPELAGO.

\* *Mullus imberbis*. LINN.

† *Mullus barbatus*. LINN.

The shielded *pleuronectes* \* is there more scarce; the Greeks call it *glossa*.

Atherines, of the species which has been called *joel* †, and to which the modern Greeks have preserved the name of *atherno*, derived from that of *atheriné*, which it had anciently, assemble in very numerous shoals near the shores of most of the islands, and sometimes a prodigious quantity of them is taken. The following is the most usual manner of fishing for them. Being provided with a long stick, at the end of which is fastened a horse's tail, or a piece of black cloth, a man walks along the sea-shore, dragging it in the water in calm weather. The atherines gather in a crowd round it, and follow its motions; in this way they are conducted into some opening formed by two rocks, which are closed by a net fastened to two sticks; the water is agitated, and the little fishes, wishing to escape, are withheld by the net, the extremities of which are drawn together.

The atherine, held up to the light, is diaphanous; and when it is dressed, even by frying, the spots or little black specks of its back are still very apparent, as well as the

\* *Pleuronectes passer*. LINN.

† *Atherina hepsetus*. LINN.



longitudinal stripe of the sides of the body, which become only blackish and more narrow. However, there are frequently found among the atherines that are taken, small fishes which the Greeks do not distinguish by different denominations, although they are of separate species, and even of separate genera.

They call the sea-gudgeon\*, common in their sea, *kouvion*.

I sometimes amused myself, on the solitary rocks of some of the islands, in holding a line suspended above a tranquil and transparent water; little fishes presently quitted the crannies of the rocks in which they dwell, and threw themselves on a deceitful bait. In this manner, I very frequently caught the small variegated labrus †, with short and delicate flesh, but the variety and lustre of whose colours ought to secure it from the gluttony of men. Most of the modern Greeks call it *illeca* or *igluca*; and those of RHODES and CANDIA, *afdellès* and *zillo*: the Italians give it the name of *donzellina*, and all these names recall to mind its elegant form and dazzling appearance, on which glisten with a mild lustre the most lively and most harmonious colours.

\* *Gobius paganellus*. LINN.

† *Sparus smaris*, LINN.

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The *smaris* also increased the produce of my fishing; this little fish, of a form as elegant as the small variegated labrus, but far less richly adorned, is likewise delicate eating. It was formerly called in GREECE *smaris*, and now it still bears a name nearly similar, *sminarida*. The islanders of the ARCHIPELAGO also distinguish it by the name of *tratto psara*, net fish; the *traitte* or *tratta* is a sort of net with close meshes, with which is taken a great quantity of these little fishes that abound in the openings of the rocks, of which the coasts of the islands are almost entirely formed. The fishermen of PROVENCE call them *giarrets* or *jarrets*, not from the latin word *girus*, as BÉLON asserts, but on account of their form, the outlines of which resemble those of the calf of a leg well-rounded †. The Italian seamen, who frequently fish for the *smaris* tribe, leave them for a few days in a basket with salt; they then string them as a species of chaplet, which they hang to dry in the sun; thus dried, these fishes are reckoned very good eating.

The species of dog-fish, which commonly with us bears the name of *poisson-chat* or

\* *De Aquatilibus*, lib. i. page 226.

*chat rochier*\*, and which the Greeks call by the generic denomination of *squilo psaro*, dog-fish, delights in playing around the rocks of the islands. The season in which it is most frequently taken is the month of March; its flesh, although very white, and not so bad as that of several fishes of the same genus, is extremely soft and insipid, and has rather a wild taste, which occasions it to be disdained, when any other can be procured. Its skin is an article of trade, like that of the dog-fish. It feeds on little fishes, crustacea, and mollusca.

This multitude of fishes of every species, the greater part of which are of an excellent quality, may become an important object of industry and commerce to the inhabitants of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, as a mean of maintaining abundance in their habitations. The fishery of narrow arms of the sea, not requiring large boats, nor very expensive nets and implements, and being frequently carried on from the shore itself, the profit which it might procure would become more considerable than in any other position, and its activity, at the same time

\* *Squalus stellaris*. LINN.

that it would afford the comforts of life, would form seamen capable of conducting vessels through the labyrinth which the group of lands and rocks render very difficult to traverse.

The large sea-polypes, although affording a food less agreeable and less wholesome than fishes, are, notwithstanding, from their abundance, a resource of some value to the Greeks, who, not being able to eat fish during the continuance of their Lents, make a great consumption of polypes in those periods of abstinence. Their sea is full of common and eight-armed cuttle-fishes, species of mollusca very numerous; they catch a tolerably large quantity of them, but which is not sufficient for their wants, because the fishery, as I have already remarked, is very far from having among them the degree of activity of which it is susceptible. There are annually brought to them, from the coast of BARBARY, a great many common and eight armed cuttle-fishes, dried in the sun, after having been cut through the middle longitudinally, and they are thus obliged to purchase this Lent provender, which they might procure themselves in their own country. They call the common cuttle-fish *soupia*: the back-bone of this

VOL. II. P. 100 polype

polype becomes an article of household furniture of the Greek women; they use it by way of a pin-cushion. In some places, the Isle of Scio in particular, the women find a more refined use for this bone of a friable substance, since it serves them to heighten their beauty; they calcine it, and reduce it to a very fine powder, with which they blacken their eye brows.

The solid and almost osseous part of the common cuttle-fish is, for the Greek fishermen, the bait with which they usually garnish their lines, in order to take the eight-armed cuttle-fish\*, which they call *ktapodi*. A lead fixed to the line carries down to the bottom of the sea the cuttle-fish bone, to which are fastened hooks; the eight-armed cuttle-fish, which keeps fast hold of the rocks by its arms or tentacula, quits them, and attracted by the whiteness of the cuttle-fish bone, comes to seize it, and gets itself hooked. Dog-fishes are frequently caught with these lines intended for catching the eight-armed cuttle-fish. The flesh of this mollusca is hard, tough, and difficult of digestion; it sometimes contracts an odour of musk, which it

\* *Sepia officinarum*. LINN.



owes, no doubt, to the nature of the food on which the animal has lived; on being dressed, it assumes a reddish colour, which it communicates to the water and to the other ingredients in which it is cooked. In order to soften the membranous substance, of which the body of the eight-armed cuttle-fish is formed, it is beaten for some time, or thrown repeatedly, and with force, against the rocks, and at the same time moistened with fresh water. The Greek women, charged with this business, never fail, in performing it, to eat raw the nut, that is, the mouth of the polype, and this bit is to them a sort of dainty. On some parts of the coast of PROVENCE, especially in the environs of TOULON, where a great many polypes are eaten, it is affirmed that, by cutting its flesh with a piece of large reed, it becomes less hard. In the LEVANT, and even in ITALY, these polypes are also pickled in vinegar; in short, the fragments of their substance are one of the baits of which the Greek fishermen make a rather frequent use. It sometimes happens, that being in the water, a man is seized by the arm or leg by a large polype, which clings to it so closely with its tentacula and suckers, that it would be impossible to

get rid of it, did he not hasten to turn back what the fishermen call the *capuchon*, that is, the head of the animal, and this operation causes its immediate death.

The fishermen of the LEVANT are persuaded that the univalved shells, called *nautili*, serve as a habitation to polypes, and this opinion, which is met with wherever there are fishermen and polypes, does not appear doubtful. The paper *nautili* are taken in the ARCHIPELAGO. There are also found, on the coasts of the islands, sea-slugs or *tethys*, which the islanders call *cochylis*.

Numerous species of *conchyli*a likewise add to the abundance of aliments which man draws from the sea, in countries favoured by Nature, and so abused by barbarous usurpers. Here are found the oyster, the pholas, the clam, which the Greeks call *achivada*, the whelk, *phosphira* of the Greeks, the muscle, the tellina, the little species of porcelana, commonly called cowry, and by the Greeks *gouronnaki*, that is, little pig; the limpet, in Greek *patellida*, the *pinna marina*, or the *nacre* of the Provençals, &c.

The Greeks also make a vast consumption of sea-urchins, which are in great plenty on the coasts of their islands; there are some black,

black, violet, purple, with the point of the spines white, some reddish, flaxen colour, and dirty white: almost all of them have the flesh of a saffron yellow; they are much fatter during the winter, and, it is added, when the moon is at the full. This latter observation had been made by the ancients\*, and it has been perpetuated, though it is no easy matter to assign its cause. Another remark, which has become proverbial among the fishermen of the MEDITERRANEAN, is, that one must not go a fishing for sea-urchins when the sea beats on the shore, that is, when it is rough. This fishery is, in fact, productive only in calm weather. Sea-urchins keeping at a small depth clinging to the rocks, they are easily perceived when the sea is smooth; they are detached with a hook fixed to the end of a long stick, which is accompanied by a small piece of net, that serves to envelop the sea-urchin, and bring it out of the water, when it no longer adheres to the rock: other fishermen dive and seize them with the hand.

The large sea-urchins, whose violet colour

\* *Luna alit ostrea et implet echinos.* Lucilius apud Aul. Gell. lib. xx. cap. xiii. — See also PLINY, MANILIUS, &c. &c.

points are tipped with white, are not eaten; their flesh is soft, black, and unwholesome. This is the case with another smaller species, black, and with very long spines. The Provençals call these urchins *Jews*, and they consider them bad, and even dangerous to be eaten. I have sometimes seen persons amuse themselves with chewing sea-urchins whole, with their stony shell, without having their mouth hurt by the prickles, which they had the address to arrange in such a manner as not to be wounded by them. But several terrestrial quadrupeds devour sea-urchins with pleasure and avidity.

Sea-nettles, with which the surface of the rocks, bathed by waters not much agitated, is frequently covered, are a very common article of food with the Greek islanders, especially during Lent. They call this zoophyte, *kolitfiano*.

In the spring, the sponge-fishers spread themselves in the ARCHIPÉLAGO. These zoophytes, placed at the last link of animated beings, are very common on the sunken rocks of these seas, and they there constitute a branch of commerce. The fishermen detach them from the stones to which they cling, either by diving, or with hooks fixed

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on long poles; but in whatever manner this fishery be carried on, it requires serene weather and a calm sea, which may allow of distinguishing the sponges at the bottom of the water.

Several species of crustacea are there equally common, particularly the crab, *kavoura* of the Greeks, the *poupart*, or *koutsonna*, the spidercrab, or *kavour ou mana*, that is, the mother of the crabs; Bernard the hermit, or the hermit-crab, the granulated crab\*, the *squlla gibba*, in PROVENCE, *carambot*, in GREECE, *keridia*, &c. &c. It is not my intention to enter into a minute detail of all the productions of the eastern part of the MEDITERRANEAN; this would be an undertaking of too great extent, and at the same time misplaced in a work of this description. I have only endeavoured to give an account of the marine animals the most useful to man, and to demonstrate that plenty reigns in the bosom of the sea, as Nature had fixed it on the land, before Tyranny came thither with her brazen arm to expel it thence, in a manner, and confine it to the waters.

Before I take leave of this sea, I shall say a word of the water-caltrops†, which is seen to

\* *Cancer granulatus*. LINN.

† *Trapa natans*. LINN.



float in the spring on the surface of the waves, in the ARCHIPELAGO, and to stop on the shores of the islands. This four-pointed fruit is called by the Greeks *maskoulla*; they were not able to tell me in what aquatic places of the coast it ripened in a quantity sufficiently great to spread itself over so large an extent of sea; the young islanders collect it, and amuse themselves with filling it with gunpowder, in order to make a little explosion.

In other respects, it appeared to me that this water-caltrops of the LEVANT differed a little from that which grows in a great many parts of EUROPE; which leads me to presume, with much probability, that it is the variety described in the *Hortus Malabaricus*, and which is peculiar to the EAST INDIES. MORRISON has distinguished this Asiatic variety\*; and it is astonishing that LINNÆUS should not have separated it from the common species.

\* *Tribulus aquaticus major Indicus, candidus geniculatis, foliis amplis, numerosis, in rosæ figuram congregatis.*

## CHAPTER XXXII.

*Rock of Pyrgui.—Strait of Polonia.—Ruins and tombs.—Another sort of Cimolian earth.—Indications of a volcano in the Island of Milo.—Its plains.—Town of Milo.—Diseases which prevail there.—Pleurisies.—Churches.—Lady of Milo.—Dress of the women.—Their manners.—Errors on this subject.—An aperture whence issue pestiferous miasmata.—Vapour baths.—Lake of hot water.—Sulphur and alum.—Mill-stones.—Salt-terns.—Iron mines,—Sardonyxes,—Catacombs,*

WHEN you quit the narrow and sandy shore, which is below the village of ARGENTIERA, in order to repair to the Island of MILO, situated to the south, you enter into a confined channel, between the Islets of SAN GIORGIO and SANT EUSTACHIO and the Island of ARGENTIERA itself; this channel forms the harbour for merchant-vessels. Very near to the coast, a rock projects into the sea, and although it has there opened itself a passage,

passage, the space which separates it from the island is so narrow, that it is impossible for the smallest boats to pass. On the rock, which is called *PYRCUI*, is to be seen a remnant of an ancient building; there it is, if we must credit the present islanders, that the princes of the island fixed their abode.

You then pass to the foot of the mountain, whence Cimolian earth is extracted, and you enter into a small strait that forms the separation of the Islands of *MILO* and *ARGENTIERA*, which the Greeks call *POLONIA*, and the French navigators the *PAS DE POLOGNE*. In the middle of this passage, which is scarcely half a league from the one point to the other, there is a sand-bank and a few rocks, on which the sea, already pent up by coasts very close to one another, breaks with fury, and rises in noisy billows. This passage is not frequented by shipping; it is too dangerous; however, with precautions, they can clear it, and several have ventured into it; they even find a tolerably good anchorage in a bight formed by two capes of the Island of *MILO*, where they have seven fathoms water, and a good bottom for holding.

It is in the middle of this sort of gulf that all the boats which come from *ARGENTIERA*,  
land.

land. On the other side, but more towards the West, facing ANTI-MILO, are discovered, on the coast of ARGENTIERA, some ruins which the Greeks call *liniko*, a word that signifies habitation of idolaters. These ruins, which I visited, no longer consist of any thing but a few tombs, dug in sandy and softish rock, the foot of which the sea washes and undermines. Opposite and at a little distance, a small shoal, which bears the name of SANT ANDREA, was formerly connected with the island, as cannot be doubted, from the shallowness of the sea between the two, there being no more than a fathom in the middle of the channel which separates them, and its bottom is covered with ruins. Among these ruins, I distinguished two large and beautiful tombs with their capitals, and the opening of a subterraneous cave in the shape of a well. The shoal even of SANT ANDREA, all the sides of which are steep and excavated by the sea, with the exception of the side on an inclined plane, which faces ARGENTIERA, still supports some fragments of ancient buildings; there are also seen passages of subterraneous galleries, in which it would be gratifying to curiosity to descend and dig, if that were practicable, without giving umbrage to a government,

government, which has no idea of the importance of historic monuments, hidden in a soil that it profanes. Jealous, not of discoveries useful to the sciences, but of imaginary treasures which it supposes buried, it does not even endeavour, by digging, to gratify its stupid and gross cupidity, because it fancies that the European alone possesses the magic power of discovering and getting possession of gold, which cannot be drawn from the bowels of the earth but by some talisman.

Every thing announces that, in this place, a town of some importance has existed; here is still to be seen the remnant of a canal dug in the rock, into which the water of the sea enters, and which was a harbour sufficient for the small vessels of the ancients: pillars, also cut in the rock, and pieces of which are still subsisting, were placed at certain distances on the borders of the channel, and served for making fast the vessels. I was shewn a sort of place of sepulture, in which some enterprising people have dug; their trouble obtained some recompense, and they thence carried off medals, lamps, earthen vessels, little idols, and a statue in silver.

At the entrance of the Strait of POLONIA, on the coast of MILO, which faces the north-east,



east, is extracted a sort of Cimolian earth, which differs but very little from that of ARGENTIERA; boats also come and load with it, in order to convey it to the other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO: this earth is even said to be preferred to the true Cimolian earth for washing, but that it is not so proper for scowring and taking out spots. The Greeks give it no other name than that of *pilo*, which signifies clay.

When you land in the Isle of MILO, you perceive that fires, long since kindled, consume the bowels of the earth; every thing there indicates a subterraneous conflagration; and in several places, the ground, which resounds under your feet, apprizes you that it is supported by vast cavities. In one place, mountains are overthrown; in another, calcined rocks sadden you by their shattered and blackish surface; farther on, stones and enormous pebbles attest, by their substance and colour, that they have been thrown up by the explosion of a volcano; boiling waters issue on all sides; pumice-stones are scattered about; sulphur is formed in abundance, and shews itself even on the surface of the ground.

In the midst of these effects of the action of the great conflagrations of Nature, the vegetable

table earth, which mostly covers the Isle of MILO, gently warmed by subterraneous heat, is very productive. Corn and cotton are there of an excellent quality, and the vines yield very good wine, as the trees do delicious fruits. Beautiful flowers there form a brilliant and natural carpet; but the plains are mostly abandoned to sterility: the quantity of lands lying fallow announces an excessive diminution in the population, as well as the criminal indifference of the government. The town of MILO, situated in an agreeable plain which leads to the head of the harbour, is no longer any thing but a heap of ruins, where a small number of Greeks still struggle against the danger incurred by inhabiting it. Of five thousand persons that TOURNEFORT reckoned there, we should scarcely find, in our days, two hundred, and almost all of them too in a state of languor which inspires pity. The bad quality of the waters which are there drunk, and the still more pernicious state of an atmosphere impregnated with sulphureous and mephitic exhalations, corrupt the blood and humours, make this town a very dangerous abode, and have converted it into a desert. Strangers even dread to make there a momentary stay, particularly during the hottest

hottest part of the summer, and these pernicious effects are felt even on board the vessels at anchor in the harbour.

Almost all the inhabitants of this unfortunate town have their legs swelled; they are, during the summer, subject to fevers, either intermittent or slow, which occasion them obstructions soon incurable. After the hot weather, pleurifies make great ravages, and the quinsy also carries off several persons, when the very supportable colds of the winter are felt. It is asserted, that bleeding has been observed to be there mortal in pleurifies, if it be recurred to before the third day of the malady, and that of all those who are bled on the first and second day, not one escapes. However, the pleurify is the most common disorder in these countries, whenever the southerly wind, blowing constantly, renders the winters very mild; and every where the same opinion is entertained as at MILO, on the subject of bleeding.

The town of MILO appears to have been well built; but its houses, at present entirely decayed, announce the desolation by which it is afflicted. The French Capuchins had here a very handsome convent; they have abandoned it, and it is in complete ruins.

It

It is said that, in this place, there were formerly a great many catholics; there no longer remains a single one, and the apostolical vicar that is continued to be appointed, without a flock, as without a wish, to be exposed to disorders, has retired to ARGENTIERA, where his congregation is scarcely more considerable, but where at least he breathes a pure air. The Latin church, consecrated to Saint COSMO and Saint DAMIANO, has fallen away with catholicism. The principal temple of the Greeks, dedicated to Our Lady of the Port, constructed in 1664, is by no means large, but tolerably handsome; the walls are covered with paintings, representing the history of the Old and New Testament. In another Greek church, called *Agio Karalobos*, is seen an *ex voto*, presented by the skipper of a French bark, about eighty years ago: it is a piece of the keel of his vessel, pierced by a large cetaceous fish, which there left a considerable fragment of its tooth. The navigator discovered it in careening his ship in a harbour of the MOREA, and hastened to deposit it at MILO, as a mark of his gratitude towards Heaven, that had preserved him from the danger to which he had been exposed, through the efforts of this marine animal.

The

The Greeks, who consider this circumstance as a miracle, have caused to be painted on this piece of wood the image of the Virgin, and to this they attach so great a value, that it would be in vain to attempt to purchase it.

At the time when I visited MILO, there lived in that town a lady very rich, and who enjoyed great influence. *KIERA PREGOULINA*, this is the lady's name, was mother to *MAVROYANI*, then drogue-man to the famous Admiral *HASSAN Pacha*, since invested with the principality of MOLDAVIA, and afterwards beheaded, according to the custom of a government, which scarcely ever fails to deprive of life and fortune those in whom it seemed to have the greatest confidence. Madame PREGOULINA was extremely polite to strangers, and to the French in particular: her garden was tolerably agreeable, and the artichokes which grew there in great abundance, appeared to me the best that I ever ate in my life. Being rather an elderly woman, she lived in retirement, although she might have resided at CONSTANTINOPLE, and there made a figure; her health did not appear affected by the malignant influence of a residence at MILO, and she assured me,



on this occasion, that the women suffered from it much less than the men.

She wore, like all her countrywomen, the strange dress of the females of ARGENTIERA, a dress devoid of taste or grace, and which, so far from being advantageous to beauty, is, on the contrary, extremely unfavourable to it. This manner of dressing is said to be derived from the highest antiquity, and to have been brought from SPARTA to MILO, which is, as is well known, a Lacedemonian colony, whence it has been spread, with various changes, into the neighbouring islands. But the literati the most versed in ancient history positively affirm, that the dress of the Spartan girls was very indecent, and that they were called *phénomèrides*, because they had not even the upper part of the knee covered. However the dress of the women of MILO, disgusting and grotesque as it is, does not offend decency, since it exactly envelops every part of the body, and is faulty rather through a contrary excess, by giving, in general, a monstrous size, by causing the shape to disappear, and by spoiling the most beautiful forms; so that “these ladies,” says TOURNEFORT, “whatever charms they may  
“ have,

“ have, are only fit to be represented as  
 “ screens or fans\*.”

These MILO women have been described under the same traits of an excessive gallantry as those of ARGENTIERA: it is extremely probable that people have been formerly mistaken concerning both, and this imputation is at present a calumny. How could coquetry fix its abode in the midst of a desert infected by pestilential miasmata, and which strangers dread to frequent? We find, nevertheless, in modern works traces of an old opinion, which the slightest observation must destroy. An Englishman presumes that these women of MILO “ equal their mothers in their liberality towards mariners, who are driven by storms to take refuge in their port; a mode of conduct which, perhaps, might have afforded HOMER the idea of his CALYPSO†,” but Mr. IRWIN had not seen MILO but from the deck of his ship, where the monotony of the voyage was enlivened by stories. It is from the same source that he derived the information which he has published respecting the women of ARGENTIERA, and which he

\* *Voyage au Levant*, vol. i. 4to. page 150.

† IRWIN'S Travels, vol. ii. page 231.

would have done better to have left where he found it: but what he says of them is sufficiently curious for me to relate here, as a proof to be added to a thousand others, of the inconveniences to which we are exposed when we relate from hearsay. This traveller first repeats what others had repeated before him, that ARGENTIERA is still more notorious than MILO for the licentiousness of its inhabitants, "and seems to be a general feraglio, if travellers are to be credited, for the mariners of the LEVANT:" but he adds, what no one had said before, that these seamen of the LEVANT "are bound to leave their offspring for the benefit of the mothers, that the boys at an early age are sent to sea, and that the girls, in due time, supply the place of their virtuous parents!" This is not yet all, and the following is an observation quite new, which belongs to Mr. IRWIN, and which no one will be tempted to dispute with him. "The inhabitants of ARGENTIERA," says he, "are entirely females, except a priest or two, who give them absolution for their sins\*." Who will absolve the traveller for having told such tales?

\* IRWIN'S Travels, vol. ii. pages 231 and 232.

At some distance from the town of MILO, I was shewn an aperture in the ground, whence issued vapours so destructive, that by placing an animal only at the mouth of this vent-hole it fell dead on the spot: some persons, no less rash than ignorant, had attempted to descend into it, and had there perished. M. DE CHOISEUL GOUFFIER, as I was informed, persuaded the inhabitants, that from this subterraneous gallery emanated the exhalations which had made of their town a field of disorders and death. They have stopped it up; but the deleterious miasmata having apparently other issues, the atmosphere is not, on that account, less infected.

At a little more than half a league to the south of the town, there are hot baths, or rather a natural bagnio, formed by a spring of boiling water. Buildings constructed round this spring, formerly served for lodging the patients, who came hither from all quarters; these buildings have undergone the fate common to every thing beautiful or useful, that existed in countries, whose soil has been for a long time covered with ruins and with all the hideous symptoms of destruction. There now remains only a little arched gallery, at the extremity of which a stone bench served as

a seat to a single person; one cannot sit there without being presently covered with sweat, and experiencing a suffocating heat. The water which forms this bagnio, situated on a hill, runs under ground towards the shore, and it is found again under the sand of the harbour; it there exhales a strong smell of sulphur, deposits an ochre-coloured sediment, and is seen to bubble up again at the bottom of the sea, at the distance of ten or twelve feet from the beach.

At no great distance, and to the north of the baths, is met with a cavern, formed in a rock of a consistence light and almost friable, at the extremity of which is a small lake of hot water, but whose heat is sufficiently moderate to admit of a person bathing; and in it there are no more than from two to four feet water. The walls of this cavern are covered with a thick coat of nitre, which is formed there naturally.

These baths are salutary effects of the general conflagration of the inside of the island; their use is very well calculated for the cure of diseases of the skin, palsy, and rheumatic pains. The Greeks were acquainted with them in the time of HIPPOCRATES, who sent thither patients, and some still come there



there in our days to seek relief for their complaints. But these sorts of favours of a frightful combustion cannot enter into comparison with the crowd of disorders, which, owing to it their origin, spread themselves over a soil, from which they seem soon likely to drive away mankind; for their fatal influence seems to increase with time, and has reached districts, which, not long since, were secure from it. 'Tis even only within a century that it has assumed this character of malignity which had not been felt by the ancients. In fact, their writings are filled with the encomiums which they bestow on the Isle of MELOS, on the abundance of its productions, and its incomparable fertility\*; but they make no mention of the insalubrity of the air that is there breathed.

It is one of the largest and most elevated islands of this southern part of the ARCHIPELAGO: PLINY has said that it was likewise the roundest of all†: it is about twelve leagues

\* THEOPHRASTUS, in extolling the prodigious fecundity of the soil of MILO, adds, that vegetation is there so vigorous, that wheat, or any other grain which is sown, ripens at the expiration of thirty days, which is too difficult to be believed.

† Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xii.

in circumference. The sulphur which was drawn from it was reckoned the best, and its alum was the most esteemed after that of EGYPT. The ancients attributed to this MILO alum the property of preventing women from conception, and DIOSCORIDES does not hesitate to make this assertion\*. Native sulphur is still very abundant there, and even makes its appearance on the surface of the ground; but it is no longer an article of trade any more than alum, although their extraction, from its great facility, occasioned scarcely any expense. We cannot be astonished at this neglect, when we reflect that several other branches of commerce, much more important, have been abandoned in countries of which they would still constitute the wealth, durst the inhabitants turn them to account.

Rock alum is commonly found at MILO, in natural excavations, where it is formed in abundance, and more beautiful and more pure than the salt of the same species, produced by our art. I entered into one of these spacious grottoes, heated by subterraneous fires, and situated on the declivity

\* Hist. Nat. lib. v. cap. cxxiii.

of a steep mountain. The rock in which it is dug is entirely calcined; the inside affords a great quantity of large pieces of alum, incrustated on the sides of the grotto, and which cannot thence be detached but by means of an iron instrument. This same salt also shews itself in efflorescence, and, in that state, it presents chrySTALLIZATIONS in small bunches of different configurations. Feather alum is also to be remarked there in plenty; it hangs from the roof in filky and brilliant threads. I observed that the stones of the entrance of this aluminous grotto had been burnt in such a manner, that with the fingers alone it was easy to crumble them and reduce them to powder.

Ships still come to load at MILO a great quantity of these solid lava, of which mill-stones are made, and which are conveyed into several countries of the LEVANT, and particularly to EGYPT and CONSTANTINOPLE. These mill-stone quarries were known and worked by the ancients, and as a mill-stone was called in Greek *mylias*, some of the learned have imagined that they found in this word the etymology of the name of MELOS, which was given to the island.

At the head of the harbour have been made basins, which are filled with sea-water; in these, evaporation leaves during the hot weather nothing but the salt, which there becomes chrystallized. These natural salterns have been very productive; they are at this day in a state of decay, which renders them of little profit.

The island likewise contains many mines of iron and ferruginous pyrites, but no advantage is derived from them. By the sea-side, to the left of the harbour, there is a black and ferruginous sand. Here too were found sardonxyes, of which no more mention is made at present, because, under a formidable tyranny, a person who speaks of his riches, gives himself up to persecution, and not unfrequently to certain destruction. OLIVIER and BRUGUIERES there discovered pozzolana, as well as at the Islands of ARGENTIERA and SANTORIN; it is certain that other valuable or useful substances would present themselves to the labours of industrious men, released from the shackles with which the present inhabitants are loaded. Under a liberal administration, the Island of MILO might even cease to be an unhealthy abode; a few precautions, a few works not

very considerable, would probably be sufficient for the amelioration which Humanity claims in vain, from persons who are regardless of her voice; accordingly we must neither expect it from the government of the Turks, nor from the unfortunate people who are become their slaves, rather than their subjects.

Several subterraneous galleries are met with at some distance from the harbour; they are dug in the rock to a rather considerable depth. The descent into some of these galleries is by a winding flight of steps. To enter them is at present a very laborious task; you are obliged to crawl on your hands and knees through heaps of stones. Along the staircase are remarked small recesses made in the stone, intended, no doubt, for receiving lamps for lighting these dark and gloomy places; for there is every appearance that they were consecrated to the sepulture of the Miliois. There are still seen other catacombs facing the latter, but not so large nor so deep. On entering them, after having walked for a few moments on an inclined plane, you meet with some wide steps, by which you ascend into a spacious hall; at the farther end is a sort of bench, cut in the rock, and round it several small rooms. The entrance of this latter

cave



cave is in a mass of stones entirely calcined ; they are light and spongy, like almost all those of the island, and especially like those of the surrounding rocks, exposed to the action of a long and immense fire which all the efforts of man could not extinguish. They present on a smoking island, whose soil rests on vast burning furnaces, the image of combustion, and the symptoms of some considerable convulsion, and perhaps of total destruction.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

*Harbour of Milo.—Cove of Patricha.—Engagement between the Mignonne frigate and two English cutters.—Harbour of Milo.—Sifour.—Ruins.—Anti-Milo.—Purgative water.—Aluminous water.—Earthquakes.—Cold.—Storm.—Remedies for the bite of serpents.—Pfylli.—Serpents.*

THE Island of MILO is divided in its middle, and almost throughout its whole breadth, by a deep bay, which, according to the remark of some of the ancients, more just than that of PLINY, gives it the form of a bow. This is one of the finest harbours in the MEDITERRANEAN, spacious enough to contain a fleet, and to keep the ships belonging to it sheltered from all winds. The anchorage there is excellent; the most common is at the very head of the gulf, abreast of the catacombs, and nearer to the east coast: anchors easily fix themselves in a fine sand; and vessels come to there in from twelve to eighteen

eighteen fathoms water. Small craft can approach nearer the coast, and carry out moorings to the rocks of one of the grottoes.

Another anchorage, more convenient, and also more still, is on the west coast, in a cove called *PATRICA*. Ships, almost entirely landlocked, do not there feel the action of the winds, nor that of the sea, from the north-west, which rolls in sometimes with a degree of violence on the beach at the head of the harbour, but cannot enter this recess, defended by an advanced point, on which rises a small rocky mountain. There it was that, in 1780, the *MIGNONNE* frigate, commanded by D'ENTRECASTEAUX, and escorting a convoy of upwards of sixty sail, sustained an engagement against two English cutters, which came thither to attack her.

The convoy had met with these two cutters in the canal of MALTA; they followed it, and, during the night, threw it into confusion. The frigate not being able to check them both at once, when she made sail after the one, the other threatened the merchant-vessels in another quarter; the great guns even becoming useless, they would have hurt none but our own ships; and it was considered as a proof of the activity, and, at the same time,  
of

of the skilfulness of the manœuvres of the *MIGNONNE*, that six ships only had fallen into the hands of the enemy; but he did not long preserve them. The convoy, having entered the ARCHIPELAGO, seemed to run under full sail towards SMYRNA: the English cutters, which outailed it, were ahead, and expected to make fresh attacks during the night. Their prizes were following them. Already this fleet of hostile vessels, which seemed to sail in company, had passed beyond the mouth of the harbour of MILO, when the *MIGNONNE*, after having commanded by signals different evolutions, ordered her convoy to make the best of its way into port; and by this manœuvre she was placed between the cutters and the convoy, and very near to the captured vessels. The latter, which for the most part were not manned by the enemy, hastened to approach the frigate; and the largest, on board of which the English had put an officer and thirteen men, was retaken, without the enemy, who was too far distant, being able to afford her assistance. The convoy anchored in the cove of PATRICHA: the next morning, thinking ourselves in safety in a harbour belonging to a neutral nation, we were preparing to take a walk

walk on shore; already had some officers set out, early in the morning, on a shooting party; when we perceived in the offing the two cutters standing in for the bay. They entered it, in fact; but though we could not imagine that it was for the purpose of attacking us, we took the precautions which prudence required: the frigate clapped a spring on her cable, and in this position she covered the whole of the merchant-ships lying in the cove. Each of the enemy's vessels was stronger than the *MIGNONNE*, not perhaps in point of men, whose number became useless to us on this occasion; neither were they so from the number of guns, but from the calibre of the pieces, which, on board the French frigate, were only eight-pounders, whereas the cutters had twelve-pounders mounted. We had every reason to think that these vessels would cast anchor in the head of the gulf; but they had no such intention: they kept under sail, abreast of the frigate, making boards, and putting about, the one after the other, under her stern, close enough to touch the ensign that was there flying. These reiterated insults were to be considered as insolent provocations, and as a real attack on the part of audacious people, regardless of the rights of



of nations. It was impossible to tolerate longer such outrages to the honour of the flag: we fired; and what proved to us that the enemy had had no other intention than of forcing us to commence hostilities, as if they consisted only in gun-shots, was, that at the very instant of our first broadside, she returned it with incredible promptitude and briskness. The action began with considerable obstinacy: we had to sustain successively the fire of four tiers of guns, and we had but one to oppose to them, since the other was turned towards the shore; and, indeed, two guns of the acting broadside were for the most part in a state of inaction, because they were masked by a tongue of land. But our artillery was better served; it had also the advantage of firing from a fixed point, while the shot of the enemy's vessels, always under sail, became more uncertain. In short, after four hours' action, the cutters, very roughly handled, sheered off, and left the harbour, to re-appear there no more. We learnt afterwards, that they had lost a great many men, and that, ready to sink, they had been forced to undergo a repair.

I must not omit a trait which may give an idea of the want of delicacy, I had almost said

of the ferocity, of the officers who commanded these cutters. Our midshipmen, who were on a shooting excursion, hastened, at the report of the first gun, to approach the beach: we could not send the boat for them during the action, and they seated themselves on the rocks in the middle of the coast, simple spectators of the engagement. Impelled by the mortification of seeing the miscarriage of their enterprise, no less rash than contrary to the laws of war, the enemy had the meanness to direct against these youths, whom he knew by their uniform, several broadsides, which covered them with splinters of rock.

After so manifest an outrage against the laws of nations and humanity, we were to expect fresh enterprises on the part of the English. D'ENTRECASTEAUX commissioned me to erect a battery on the top of the hill, at the foot of which the frigate was at anchor: we dismounted the guns from the side of the ship that faced the land; and they were dragged over a steep surface, thickly strewn with rocks, with that transport of courage which distinguishes French warriors, and presently the rock was transformed into a fortlet capable of resisting ships of war.

These

These precautions removed not the apprehensions of D'ENTRECASTEAUX; he dreaded an assemblage of superior force, and even the treachery of the Greeks: during the night, he caused the guns to be hastily re-embarked, and the flotilla to make a retrograde movement, by conducting it under the cannon of the fort of SUDA, in the Island of CANDIA. I had joined the *MIGNONNE* in the cove of PATRICHA; and, since her departure, I followed her destination, and no longer quitted her. But I return to the Isle of MILO.

The entrance of the harbour faces the north-west. It is very wide, and ships may, without risk, approach very near to the coasts by which it is formed. They have on the starboard hand, or to the right, Cape *VANI*; and to the left, Cape *LAKIDA*: the gulf then contracts between Cape *SAN DIMITRI* and Cape *BOMBARDA*. On the latter, a high mountain, formed like a sugar-loaf, bears at its summit a village, to which has been given the name of *SIFOUR*; it is surrounded by walls, which have obtained it the epithet of castle, in Greek *castro*, although, with the exception of this simple and feeble enclosure, it affords nothing that resembles a fortress. It is at *SIFOUR* that the pilots for the AP<sup>HI</sup>-

PELAGO reside. The air there is pure and wholesome; the pestilential vapours of the plain do not reach it with destructive influence: accordingly this place is more populous than the capital of MILO; and the inhabitants exhibit, throughout their whole exterior, the signs of vigour and health, in which their unfortunate countrymen are deficient.

From the top of this narrow mountainous point, on which is built the steep village of SIFOUR, the view embraces a vast extent: on the one side it discovers the mountains of ATTICA, the fields of ARGOS, and the lands of ancient LACONIA; to the south, the celebrated mountains of CRETE; and, on the other quarters of the horizon, the numerous Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, which seem to float on the waters. There is every appearance that, formerly, the principal place of the Isle of MILO was towards the site of SIFOUR, since all the ancient habitations of the ARCHIPELAGO are built on eminences the most lofty, and whose access is the most rugged. Quarrels incessantly reviving between one tribe and another, induced the necessity of being continually prepared against an enemy whose principal tactics, according to

to the genius of the whole nation, consisted in cunning and surprise, and his approach was easily discovered from the top of mountains which no other commands. These points of rocks, towering towards the sky, were from their situation easy to defend, and extremely well calculated to stop the enemy and repel his attacks. Besides, in a country where all religious opinions referred to theogony, the men, placed far above the level of the ground, fancied themselves nearer to the gods, and thought that they were more surely heard by them. It is only when dissensions left a few intervals, of which the arts and commerce were able to get possession, that nations approached the plains and the low coasts, where they could give themselves up, with greater comfort and success, to trade, and every kind of industry. And what proves that the position of SIFOUR was alike inhabited by the ancients, is, that we see there considerable ruins, pieces of wall thrown down, fragments of columns of PARIAN marble, and subterraneous galleries; antique catacombs, where slight, but secret digging, daily brings to light funeral inscriptions, vases, idols, medals, &c. Every thing announces the remains of a considerable city. On a broad



fragment of frize is still to be read, in large characters, in very good preservation,

ΣΑΒΕΙΝΟΣΟΠΥ

that is, *SABINUS*, son of *Py.....* The remainder is wanting.

A desert islet, very elevated above the surface of the waters, appears opposite the entrance of the harbour; it is a fragment of numerous ruins of an ancient land, shattered on all sides: the Greeks call it *REMOMILO*; and our navigators, *ANTI-MILO*, or *ANTI-MILE*.

Near *SIFOUR*, a spring, of a water almost lukewarm, and of a flat and nauseous taste, issues from an eminence towards the sea-shore. It is from this natural pharmacy that the Greeks fetch their purgative potions, and a few glasses of this water produce the effect of a medicine. This is the country for hot waters, impregnated with foreign substances: there are very few good to drink; and this scarcity of pure and wholesome water undoubtedly contributes to the disorders with which the inhabitants are overwhelmed, with the exception of those of *SIFOUR*, who have an opportunity of drinking limpid water.

On

On the side opposite to SIFOUR, that is, on the west part of the island, is found a spring of water, so loaded with alum, that it deposits that mineral on the surface of the ground which it bathes.

The inflamed vapours of the bowels of the earth are exhaled by so great a quantity of vent-holes, they remain so little concentrated in caverns, where fires are incessantly burning, that the soil of the Isle of MILO is not, as might be imagined, frequently shaken by subterraneous commotions. During the years 1779 and 1780, there were felt in the Isle of MILO, and in that of ARGENTIERA, which has always shared the political fate of the former, as it shares the effects of a vast conflagration of Nature; there were felt, I say, only two slight shocks of an earthquake: the former, during the night from the 6th to the 7th of January, in calm weather, but at the expiration of forty days of an impetuous northerly wind; the latter, on the 6th of December, during a hurricane from the south-west, which, at the very instant of the shock, veered round to the northward, blowing with equal fury. But what is remarkable, is, that both these commotions were much more perceptible in the Island of CANDIA, where some

houses were overthrown, edifices damaged, and men flung on the ground. Communications, formed at immense depths, spread afar the fire with which the bowels of the globe are consumed, establish a series of galleries extending in every direction, and threatening, perhaps, the surface of the earth with new convulsions, and mankind with fresh destruction.

This same year of 1779 was also remarkable, in the ARCHIPELAGO, for the duration and violence of the north wind, and from the cold, extraordinary for these parts, which was there experienced. The mountains of the neighbouring continents were covered with a great quantity of snow; and it froze rather hard in the Islands of MILO and ARGENTIERA, where I then was. The ice, in some places, was upwards of an inch in thickness, and might be reckoned a prodigy, in a country where it may almost be said that it never freezes. The oldest inhabitants did not remember to have seen so hard a frost. There was one in the winter of 1768-69; but it was extremely slight, in comparison to that of 1779. And, indeed, the surprise of the Greeks, astonished at the sight of the various forms of the icicles suspended to the houses

houses and the trees, was truly pleasant: they broke off the fragments which appeared to them most curious, carried them along the streets on dishes, uttering cries of admiration; in short, they all shewed, in an unequivocal manner, that they beheld ice for the first time. It did not last long; and, in twenty-four hours, a mild sun dissipated these gloomy but transient symptoms of a severe winter, and began again to warm the earth, astonished at the cold to which it was a stranger.

Impetuous winds, hurricanes, and extraordinary meteors, likewise distinguished, in the LEVANT, the year 1779. This derangement of the atmosphere was, doubtless, owing to distant causes, with which I was not acquainted, such as violent commotions, or great convulsions in some parts of the globe. The sea participated in this state of derangement of the air and temperature: shipwrecks covered with their remains the waves, raised by the strength of the winds. At the beginning of a winter so rough, and presenting several phenomena, I was witness of the most violent storm that I ever beheld in my life: it took place at two o'clock in the afternoon, during my stay at ARGENTIERA. The  
wind

wind blew first from the south-west with great force; the sky was overcast, and the rain had been almost continual: the clouds had become less thick from ten o'clock in the morning; but the arc of the horizon to the south-west was blackened, in a frightful manner, with clouds heaped up, precursors of the storm. The wind presently shifted to that quarter; an almost total darkness was spread over the atmosphere, and mountains of clouds, of a greenish tint, advanced with rapidity; long streams of fire divided them in every direction, and the thunder never ceased to roar, but in a hollow manner, and without claps. A water-spout, whose form was that of a cylinder widened at both ends, joined the sea to the clouds; the waters boiled up at its base, which I estimated at a quarter of a league in circumference, and it moved with extreme swiftness. When arrived over the islands, the storm became terrible: the impetuosity of the wind shattered several windmills; thunder roared on all sides; a frightful shower of hail, the stones of which were of the size of a common walnut, fell with a dreadful force: Nature appeared on the point of being swallowed up in an abyss, and consternation reigned in every mind. A deluge of  
of



During the short time that I passed at SIFOUR, I saw a child that had, three or four hours before, been bitten by a viper, or a venomous snake, in the small of the leg: it was brought to me, under the idea that I might afford it some assistance. The leg and foot were much swelled, very hard, and of a bluish colour: the child suffered great pain; the wound no longer appeared, and the place was not to be distinguished but by a larger swelling, and by pains more acute, which were occasioned by touching it. I had experienced on several occasions, and particularly at GUIANA, where snakes are equally numerous and formidable, the efficacy of *eau de Luce* as a preservative against their venom. I made the child swallow a few drops of it, in half a glass of wine; and, after some scarifications on the part bitten, I applied to it a compress, steeped in this same water, which is known to be composed of volatile alkali and oil of amber. Four hours after, the swelling was considerably diminished; the child no longer felt any pain, and was in the most tranquil state. I renewed the com-

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press of *eau de Luce*, and dismissed the little patient, at the same time recommending that he might not be disturbed, and, above all, that no sort of remedy might be administered to him.

But these recommendations were vain: scarcely had the child left the house that I inhabited, before some old women, exercising empiricism exclusively, persuaded the father of the little patient that the remedies of the *Franks* were good for nothing, and even might be pernicious to Orientals. It is to be remarked, that this is precisely the language of the fanatic and haughty Mahometan, who, at once proud and ignorant, alike disdains men and things that are foreign to his religion and his customs; but it is not astonishing that the slave should hold the same language as the tyrant.

The advice of the old female empirics was attended to: the child was asleep; it was awakened; the compress of *eau de Luce* was taken off. The wound was laid open with a razor, and two ligatures were made, the one on the calf of the leg, and the other on the middle of the thigh, with two small cords drawn so tight, that the unfortunate child, who was thus left to pass the night, had the  
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next morning so extraordinary a swelling on the thigh and leg, that the ligatures were over-hung and covered by the flesh, which was hard, inflamed, and so excessively painful, that a fly, which alighted on the leg, caused the patient to vent loud cries. A burning fever, attended with delirium, tormented him; and his state of danger had decided the parents to bring him to me again, contrary to the advice of the cruel female physicians. My first care was to cut the cords, whose effect made me tremble; but when, on examining the wound, I found that the flesh had been cut with so little precaution that the muscle was injured; that, moreover, there had been applied to the wound a cataplasm, which had brought on suppuration; and that, regard being had to the excessive state of inflammation of the leg and thigh, and to the great heat of the atmosphere, this suppuration might be attended by the most serious consequences, I dismissed the patient, and would have no more to do with him.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable result of this accident, it is certain that the ligatures, flashes rather than scarifications, and suppurative plasters occasioned all the mischief, since the swelling was considerably diminished, and  
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the pain entirely removed; by the use of *eau de Luce* applied as a topic, and taken internally; and this is an effect which it fails not to produce, when it is opportunely resorted to in similar circumstances.

The remedies which the Greeks commonly employ for curing the bite of snakes, consist in cataplasms of emollient plants, calculated to promote suppuration. Sow-thistle is reckoned among them to possess particularly a specific virtue against this sort of venom. But this treatment is very long; it frequently lasts two months, and never less than one; neither is it always successful, and death pretty frequently carries off the patient from the torments which this mode of treatment causes him to suffer.

The EAST was at all times the country of magicians: men, boasting to have the power of charming serpents, of braving their bite and their venom, of rendering them docile to their voice, formerly existed there under the name of *Psylli*; and there are still to be found people who pretend to have inherited their secrets. I knew one of those versed in this kind of fascination; he was certainly the most ignorant and most foolish of the Greeks: his secret principally consisted in

in thirteen words, which it was necessary to pronounce in sight of the serpents. He told me also, that, in order to guard against the bite of these reptiles, it was necessary to try to take one alive, with the precaution of seizing it strongly by the neck, so as to prevent it from biting, and not to concern myself about its body and tail, the twistings of which lightly squeeze the arm. You must then slip round its neck a running knot, made with coarse thread, and draw it tight by degrees, till the animal is strangled. When it is on the point of dying, you open it, and take out its fat, with which you rub your hands: then my modern psyllus said to me, “ You have nothing more to “ fear from the bite of every species of ser “ pent.”

Though I have been assured, and have every reason to believe, that serpents are common in the Islands of GREECE, I never met with any, so that I cannot say what are the species that are there to be found: there are, as I was told, some very large, and upwards of seven feet long. These reptiles, several of which distill from their canine teeth a very subtle venom, retire into holes, under stones and ruins, during the winter: they



they reappear in the spring, and even introduce themselves into the houses. At this period, the inhabitants look for the skin which they have cast; and, by wearing it on their hat, they imagine themselves secure from their bite. It is also asserted, that, to drive them away from the houses, it is sufficient to burn there hartshorn, the smell of which, it is said, is to them insupportable.

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

*Island of Policandro. — Isle of Sikino. — Paganagia of Cardioliffa. — Island of Siphanto. — Its mines; its productions; its inhabitants. — Goat. — Strongylo and Despotico. — Antiparos. — Grotto of Antiparos. — Island of Paros. — Its harbours. — Road of Nauffa. — Establishment of the Russians in that road.*

IF, from the Isle of MILO, you sail to the eastward, inclining a little towards the south, you soon meet with the Island of *POLICANDRO*, which is distant from it only seven or eight leagues. It formerly bore the name of *PHOLEGANDROS*, and to this the poet ARATUS added the epithet *ferrea*, in order to give, in a single word, the idea of its soil, rugged, stony, and, as it were, composed of iron. The coast affords no harbour to ships which approach it; its population is by no means numerous, and confined in a village enclosed by walls, and near which rises very high a rock of a frightful aspect.

The vine, which grows there between the stones, yields good wine; but agriculture finds few spaces which are suitable to it. In a few districts corn and cotton are cultivated, and with this latter commodity tolerably fine cloths are manufactured. Game delights in this rugged soil, and birds of passage make it their principal rendezvous in their regular migrations.

Further on is *SIKINO*, an island nearly of the same size as *POLICANDRO* but of a soil less rugged and more fertile. The ancients called it *ZIKENOS* and *SYCINUS*, from *SYKINUS*, son of a nymph and of *THOAS* king of *LEMNOS*. It was also called *ÆNOË*, the wine island, on account of the fertility of its vineyards, and the excellence of its grapes. There is no harbour; the boats of the country stop at the lower part of the town, on a very narrow sandy beach, on which their crews are obliged to draw them on shore between two enormous masses of rocks, perpendicular, and, as it were, suspended above the waters of the sea. The town or village, enclosed by walls like almost all those of the same countries, is built on one of these enormous rocks, and the population, notwithstanding the goodness of the soil of the island, is  
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there scarcely more considerable than at POLICANDRO, because the same causes or the same vices of administration prevail in this place, as well as in the other islands.

Between SIKINO and POLICANDRO is a shoal, the remains of the lands by which they were united. A chapel dedicated to the Virgin, whither the Greeks bring their offerings on the great festivals of the year, is built on an islet which is inhabited only at the periods of these religious assemblies; it is called *PANAGIA*, or Our Lady of *CARDIOLISSA*.

The Island of SIPHANTO lies to the north of ARGENTIERA, and very close to it. In former times it was flourishing, under the name of *SIPHROS*; it was even reckoned the richest of the ARCHIPELAGO, on account of the gold and silver mines which had there been discovered, and the tenth alone of which furnished the temple of APOLLO at DELPHOS with the richest treasure that had been seen. These mines dishonour the Siphnians, at the same time that they enrich them; and as if a too great opulence could not exist without corruption of morals and duplicity of character, these vices of depravity were so common at *SIPHROS*, that they served throughout

all GREECE as a term of comparison, when it was required to paint discredited morals, or perfidy of conduct.

At this day the treasures which the earth conceals in its bosom, remain unknown; they wait for wise and enlightened hands to be discovered anew, and again become a source of riches to an island which figures at present, but with less nakedness than many others, in the picture of misery common to all those countries.

The mines of gold and silver are not the only ones of SIPHANTO; there are some very abundant in lead, iron, and loadstone. Its mountains also contain quarries of very beautiful marble, and the ancients speak of a species of very soft stone, with which they made vases which were conveyed throughout all GREECE, and which are no longer known in our days; so that the Island of SIPHANTO would still be the richest of the ARCHIPELAGO, if it ceased to be subject to a government which crushes it with an iron hand. It is also one of the most agreeable and most cheerful; the air there is very pure and wholesome; the plains are adorned with the variety of dress which it owes to easy labours, and the excellent quality of their productions



is another precious favour of Nature. Silk, cotton, figs, oil, wax, and a few other commodities of less importance, there compose the crops and the trade; and it is easy to judge how much they might be increased, either by other kinds of culture, or by a greater abundance in the produce. The present industry is sufficient to shew what it would become in circumstances more propitious. Fine cotton-cloths, straw-hats, &c. are there manufactured.

The inhabitants of SIPHANTO are mild and hospitable; the women are beautiful; but their dress, which too much resembles that of their female neighbours of ARGENTIERA and MILO, robs them of many of their charms.

This island has no harbours, except for small vessels; the most considerable place, which is called SERAI, is built on steep rocks, which leave below the town only a very small cove where boats cast anchor, because if they were surprised there by a northerly wind, they would soon be dashed to pieces on the coast: those of the country are hastily drawn on shore as soon as they are unloaded.

At SIPHANTO there was a Greek physician, whose knowledge consisted in a collection of recipes

recipes which he applied on every occasion. His countrymen had no great confidence in him; and, indeed, he spent most of his time in visiting the neighbouring islands, and there seeking patients more credulous: he was, however, an unexceptionable man, very obliging, and a great friend to the French. I saw at his residence a goat of the beautiful race which is bred at SANTORIN; it lived familiarly in his house, went every where without doing the smallest damage, and was equally well satisfied with bread, meat, salt fish, &c. &c. but it was extremely delicate in point of cleanliness; if in eating it dropped any bit, it did not pick it up; and if one presented it what it liked best at the same time holding it in one's mouth, it refused to touch its favourite food. These little facts of which I was witness, and which are a proof of the instinct of cleanliness natural to goats, and of that which they require in a state of domesticity, are not altogether uninteresting to natural history, and even to rural economy, because they serve to direct it in the manner of rearing animals, the most conformable to their habits, and consequently the most profitable. However, this goat belonging to the physician of SIPHANTO was extremely productive

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ductive as well from the quantity of its milk, as from the number of its kids.

On the same direction as SIPHANTO, from west to east are ranged the Islands of *ANTI-PAROS*, *PAROS*, and *NAXIA*, all three celebrated, and still very remarkable. I do not speak of those two islets in front of the former of these islands, and detached from them, and the smallest of which, as well as the most advanced towards the west, bears the name of *STRONGYLO*, and the other that of *DESPOTICO*. They are both uninhabited; yet they are not useless, owing to the good anchorage which they afford to the largest ships, in the midst of the channel that separates them from the Island of *ANTIPAROS*.

This latter island, which is narrow and long, in a direction from north-east to south-east, is the ancient *OLYAROS*, a colony of Sidonians. Its soil, which might be better cultivated, is tolerably fertile; it is not even without agreeableness; but the tint of wretchedness, which there prevails, conceals these gifts of Nature, and no longer suffers any thing to be perceived but accumulated ills, which the breath of an administration, friendly to human nature, would soon cause to disappear.

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But what renders ANTIPAROS one of the most famous islands of the ARCHIPELAGO and even in the world, is the grotto which penetrates into its bosom to a great depth, and which, according to what is related of it by the Greeks, communicates beneath the waters with some neighbouring islands; an abyss whose windings have not yet been discovered and visited, and which offers a field to observation no less extensive than curious. TOURNEFORT; has described, with much exactness, the grotto of ANTIPAROS. M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER has given some very beautiful drawings of it in his *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*; and as I could only repeat what has been said of it by those two illustrious travellers, I prefer referring the reader to their works than to copying them.

The Island of PAROS is separated only by a narrow channel from the more inconsiderable one of ANTIPAROS, of which I have just spoken. Like all the other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, PAROS has borne several names in antiquity: it was called *MINOA*, because it was conquered by MINOS, the renowned king of CRETE; before, it was called *PACTIA*, and it has since changed its name repeatedly, till it took and at last retained  
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that of *PAROS*, from the name of the son of *JASON*, or of a certain Arcadian, son of *PARRHASIUS* \*.

Though of little extent, the Island of *PAROS* formerly prided itself on its power and riches. For these it was indebted to the activity of its commerce and the culture of the arts; excellent harbours favoured navigation and trade, as quarries of one of the most beautiful marbles in the world had there inspired the taste of the arts. This marble, of a dazzling whiteness, was almost reckoned a precious stone in the eyes of the ancients; gold was frequently destined to accompany it, and the gods had no temples, nor statues of a substance more esteemed. In the same place where Nature placed the substance the most in request for the chisel of the sculptor, she also gave birth to the two most celebrated artists of antiquity, and who may be considered as the geniuses to whom sculpture owed its lustre. *PHIDIAS* and *PRAXITILES* were born at *PAROS*. Their master-pieces, the ornament of *GREECE*, are at present lost, mutilated, or buried under rubbish, and their descendants, whom misery and slavery have

\* *PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xii.*

degraded,



degraded, are no longer acquainted with an art which constituted the glory of their country.

The very quarries of this beautiful marble are abandoned and partly filled up. One can no longer descend but with the greatest difficulty into some of their galleries. If they were disencumbered of the stones heaped up and the earth fallen in, which obstruct them, one might reach the cavities whence issued blocks which took admirable forms under the chisel of the ancients, and whence, in all probability, will again issue those with which modern artists will represent heroes very much above the gods of antiquity.

A small town called *PARÉCHIA* has replaced the ancient city of *PAROS* on the west coast of the island, facing *ANTIPAROS*: it presents no idea of it, unless by the beautiful ruins which are employed without reserve as without taste, in its construction. Similar fragments of magnificent monuments load, in a useless manner, almost all the territory of the island; and, in these deserted remains, art would still discover objects worthy of its admiration. Off *PARÉCHIA*, the sea forms a bight, and a harbour whose entrance is difficult, on account of the shoals by which

which it is obstructed on the opposite coast; the harbour of *MARMARA* has not the same inconveniences, but it is more open. Lower down on the same side, Port *TRE'O*, protected by three islets, affords to navigators a very convenient watering-place; and above *MARMARA*, at the north-west point of the island, Port *SANTA MARIA* is also a good anchorage. The coasts of *PAROS* have also other anchorages, where ships may find temporary shelter against the violence of the winds; but the most excellent of harbours, which will always make *PAROS* an island of great importance, is that of *NAUSSA* to the north-north-east. Placed in the middle of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, this harbour, not so large as that of *MILO*, is, nevertheless, more advantageous; fleets can lie there in safety, and none is more favourable for an establishment. The Russians had chosen it for the depot of their forces, and the centre of their operations; they had erected batteries to defend its entrance, constructed fortifications, and built magazines and other edifices, in order to make up for the few resources which they would have found in the little village of *NAUSSA*. Though these works were made in our time, though in 1776,

M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER again visited them and found them still entire, the empire of destruction has in such a manner established itself in these beautiful parts of the EAST, that they are at present quite rased and demolished, and that if it were wished to make of the fine road of NAUSSA a naval and military establishment, every thing there must be re-constructed.

However, this stay of the Russians at PAROS has not produced there the effect that might thence be expected. Armed in appearance for the purpose of restoring to the Greeks their ancient liberty, they became their scourge; not that they had an intention of hurting a nation which it was their interest to spare, and to which they themselves bear much resemblance; but they appeared accompanied by the frightful train of war, and it is well known that, at its aspect, every kind of liberty disappears. Obligated, in foreign parts, to employ as auxiliaries undisciplined men, Albanians, exercised to robbery and excesses, these very Russians from whom the Greeks expected their emancipation, shewed themselves rather as enemies than as deliverers: the inhabitants of PAROS, worn out by the most cruel

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exactions, quitted their dwellings, and were reduced to regret Mussulman despotism. Since that period, the island is almost deserted, and this people, who were oppressed under the pretext of a false liberty, are at present on their guard against similar attempts, and we could not, without infinite difficulty, succeed in making them listen to promises more certain, and subscribe to offers more real.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

*Plan of a particular commerce to be established in the Islands of the Levant. — Description of the Island of Naxia. — Account of the various articles of merchandise fit to be introduced into the trade of the Archipelago.*

AT the moment when peace, hastened by victory, at length yielding to the wishes of mankind, is on the point of spreading its happy influence over countries long a prey to agitation and troubles; at the moment when its benefits, so impatiently expected, are going to restore life to commerce, and a peaceable course to the channels of general prosperity; the public mind, fatigued by the sudden undulations of actions and reactions, and no longer having any uneasiness to conceive respecting the dangerous consequences of the intrigues of a few ambitious men, who have by turns disputed with each other the political scene, is going to be directed towards a laudable and useful object, and to

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be occupied with commercial undertakings and speculations, which, being favourable to private interest, will turn at the same time to the wealth and splendour of the country.

A war cruelly prolonged, but entirely new in history, had insulated FRANCE; all communication from without was prohibited, as well as all speculation extinguished. At present, the barrier is opened; the field of useful enterprise is enlarged and becoming immense, and every one will be able to take an active part in that sort of common stock, where property will always be found by the side of active industry.

Among the efforts of commercial industry, those whose motives and object shall be to revive our rich LEVANT trade, must be placed in the first rank: but, independently of the general means of restoring to this trade its ancient splendour, there are particular ones, improperly neglected before the revolution, and which are, nevertheless, of great moment: I mean, an establishment fit for the Islands of the LEVANT. Whether these islands remain in the hands of the Turks, or whether, through a desirable revolution, they pass under a government more mild and liberal, they will equally afford great profits to those who shall

shall make them the object of their speculations. And the local knowledge which I have acquired, has so fully convinced me of the importance, and at the same time of the facility of such an undertaking, that I would not hesitate to contribute to it with all my means, among which, besides a perfect notion of the places, I will venture to reckon the intelligence which creates resources, the experience which suggests them, the activity which multiplies them, and lastly, the probity which applies them to common advantage.

We are not here speaking of an establishment too distant, difficult, or dangerous, nor of a commerce which requires privileges for itself, or some exclusion for others. It is in the fortunate climate of GREECE, in countries so favoured by Nature, that the barbarism of the people who have invaded them has not been able to efface their smiling aspect, nor to cause all their charms to disappear: it is in the middle of a civilized, mild, industrious nation, with which FRANCE has connexions free and quick; it is in the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, in short, that it is proposed to establish a traffic which requires no other prerogative, on the part of the government

vernment, than authority to form it; if, however, in a state well-organized, where fraud alone ought to meet with obstacles, such an authority became necessary; nor any other protection than that to which every Frenchman is entitled, when he devotes himself to undertakings which must turn to the general advantage. It is not that, considering it in a point of view less contracted, the Government might not perceive a mean of reviving the French trade to the LEVANT, and of counter balancing that which the English, at this day our enemies, and always our rivals, carried on there with an advantage which had evidently increased within these few years. Under this aspect, it would have well-founded claims to the encouragement which the State owes to enterprises that so nearly concern its riches and glory.

This traffic is also of a nature neither to cause umbrage nor jealousy, since the traders of MARSEILLES, who, under the old order of things, had nearly the exclusive privilege of the trade of the LEVANT, would not even have been able to complain of competition. In fact, with the exception of the Islands of RHODES, STANCHO, and SCIO, in which there still existed some trace of their ancient

commerce, denoted by a vice-consul without merchants, they have abandoned all the other islands, even that of MITYLENE, where their ships took in cargoes of olive-oil, and whence the Government also withdrew its agent, upwards of twenty years ago. I shall not examine the motives which determined the re-form of establishments whose utility has long appeared incontestable. Under the reign of LOUIS XIV. that is, at the period when the commerce of FRANCE enjoyed its greatest splendour, each of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, of any consequence, had a French agent, who watched over the national interests, and pointed out to traders the articles from which they might derive any benefit in these same islands; but those consuls, vice-consuls, and agents, were themselves dealers; their views were profitable, because they did not go beyond the interest of trade and navigation. All, or almost all, have been withdrawn; and the consuls of the LEVANT are become diplomatic agents, and nearly useless in countries where diplomacy is a science absolutely unknown, and where people are quite ignorant of its forms. On this subject, the reader may consult a work entitled “ *Remarques sur diverses Branches,*

“*Branches de Commerce et de Navigation*,” 8vo. printed in 1758. But it will not be unreasonable to indicate one of the causes which may have contributed to render these same establishments less prosperous.

The most opulent traders, who, before the revolution, sent their ships to our colonies, had no other manner of getting rid of their cargoes than of forming, in the places where they touched, storehouses, in which the colonist found daily, and in whatever quantity he pleased, the merchandise of EUROPE: he delivered, in exchange, the fruits of his culture. A little time was sufficient for the sale of the cargo arrived from FRANCE, and for completing that of the return. This method, which appears the most natural, seemed to be disdained in the markets of the LEVANT. The houses of MARSEILLES dispatched thither various goods to their employers in the different seaports. The latter sold them wholesale to the dealers of the country, who, in their turn, also sold to the French the articles which passed into FRANCE. Turkish, Greek, or Jew agents, arranged these reciprocal sales. The employer neither looked for nor saw his dealers, and he had no concern but with his *censal*: the agent, or broker, is thus called in



the LEVANT. The sales and purchases were frequently delayed; a good part of the profits remained, both in the hands of the Levantine seller, and in those of the agent. Thence small cargoes, returns of little importance, slow expeditions, frequent demurrage, and moderate fortunes \*. A few vessels, come from MARSEILLES, and bound to SMYRNA, for example, appeared to sail in ballast, although they were scarcely of sixty or eighty tons burden. It is admitted, that this method does not materially affect the aggregate of trade, and that the quantity of goods imported and exported is still nearly the same, although divided into an infinite number of channels. But the fortune of individuals is improved

\* The employers attached a false pride to this sort of routine. We saw at \*\*\* a French man, who had the good sense and courage not to follow the stream, and who had imagined that it was as honourable to sell a piece of cloth as to sell a whole bale: we saw him, I say, experience incredible vexation on the part of his countrymen, and not be admitted into what they called the *corps de la nation*, a pompous title, which will appear extremely ridiculous, when it shall be known that this *corps de la nation* was composed of five or six factors. It is proper to observe, that this very dealer is become the head of the principal house of the seaport where he resides; an incontrovertible proof of the success attached to the operations which he had adopted.

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more difficultly; they are, consequently, not enabled, whatever activity may, in other respects, be attributed to them, to make effectual efforts or attempts of any importance; and it cannot be doubted that this sort of partial languor may have some influence on general traffic. It is with the same turn of mind that the French trade was directed in the ARCHIPELAGO. Nature, in dividing, in parcelling off, as it were, the soil of these countries into a multitude of portions, seemed to indicate the line to be followed. What is only less lucrative in the great sea-ports, became insupportable and ruinous in an island, in which a cargo, even moderate, could not be sold wholesale; and this reason alone would have been more than sufficient to induce the abandonment of similar establishments.

With other principles, we are justified in expecting profits by no means common, by trading in the ARCHIPELAGO, and on some of the neighbouring coasts, where no factory exists. The only question would be, to choose such goods as are there of certain sale, and among which some have been sold as high as six hundred per cent. profit, not to lose opportunities of procuring cheap articles in return, and to neglect nothing for ex-

tending there our speculations. Our readers must be sensible that, without banishing sales and purchases by wholesale, when circumstances shall be favourable, retail traffic would form the basis of the undertaking, because, in fact, it is, in this situation, not only more profitable, but also more admissible.

It would be superfluous to enter into a minute detail of all the operations which are connected with the execution, or which spring from it; but it will be sufficient to give some development to the principal dispositions which are to direct the undertaking, and insure its success.

The choice of the island is one of the most important points. In order that every advantage might be found united, it would be necessary that this island, situated in the centre of the ARCHIPELAGO, should join to a numerous population the comfort of its inhabitants; that its ports should be alike frequented by European ships, and by the small craft of the country; that, in short, the state and distribution of its territory should afford facilities for forming an establishment. No island, in particular, possesses at once all these elements of prosperity; but, their intercourse with each other renders them, in a manner

a manner, common to all. The large Island of SCIO seems, at first sight, to command the preference: a town well-built and flourishing, the urbanity of its inhabitants, manufactories of velvet and other silk stuffs, a harbour into which enters a crowd of vessels, plains covered with villages and embellished by their culture and fertility, the silk, wax, honey, mastic, turpentine, wines, and fruits, which they produce—every thing appears to make the scale turn in favour of SCIO. But this island is situated too far to the northward; its vicinity to SMYRNA would render trade less advantageous: besides, the position of its town, at no great distance from the principal cities of the Ottoman empire, the sedition, insurrections, and political commotions of which are felt, on a radius somewhat prolonged; its disorderly garrison of janizaries and marines; the Turks who reside there, and pass there, are so many circumstances which sometimes expose its tranquillity.

If we cast our eyes on the southern part of the CYCLADES, we discover a vast road, the ordinary anchorage of ships which navigate in these seas: it is formed by the Islands of MILO, ARGENTIERA, and POLIVO, the *BURNT ISLAND* of the Europeans. There it is that  
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intercourse with FRANCE would be the most frequent; but the air of MILO is so unwholesome, that it is dangerous to make there any stay. The temperature of ARGENTIERA is salubrious; but the only village standing there is so circumscribed, the houses which compose it are so mean, that one would have some difficulty in finding a convenient lodging. POLIVO is uninhabited. On the other hand, these three islands are at too great a distance from the centre of the ARCHIPELAGO, which it is important to occupy.

It is, therefore, nearly in the middle of this group of islands that it is proper to stop, and every consideration unites in favour of NAXIA, formerly NAXOS. It is the largest of the CYCLADES, and its fertility, still more than its extent, has occasioned it to be called the *QUEEN*. It was formerly a powerful republic. The same spirit of liberty which reigned among their ancestors, has been propagated to the modern Greeks: enslaved under the brazen yoke of Mussulman despotism, they have found means to preserve, at least, the forms of a free state. They are governed by magistrates chosen from among themselves; no Turk there establishes his domination, and this is not one of the smallest allurements



allurements of NAXIA. It is, in a word, the most agreeable, and at the same time the most tranquil island of the ARCHIPELAGO. Persecutions are there more rare; and, what does not commonly happen either in other islands, every one there enjoys his fortune in tolerable tranquillity. The ancients, on account of the fecundity of its territory, compared it to SICILY; and, when they spoke of the delicious wine which it produced, they assimilated it to the nectar of the gods. Limpid waters traverse it in every direction, and roll into its plains coolness and abundance. Those trees which are to us delicate articles of expense and luxury, such as the orange-tree, the lemon-tree, the pomegranate-tree, there grow without culture; their flowers perfume the pure air that is breathed, and their fruits acquire an exquisite flavour. Olive-trees, mulberry-trees, fig-trees, planted here and there, add to the varied productions of the earth, diversify the sites, and embellish the landscapes. Other trees of every size, whose verdure never fades, there form natural groves and agreeable shades. Vines, which still yield an excellent wine, recall to mind that NAXIA was formerly consecrated to BACCHUS. Considerable flocks of sheep brouze

on the odoriferous plants which clothe the declivity of the mountains; hares and red partridges, by procuring the amusement of shooting, augment the resources of the table; fish is in great plenty; and provisions of every sort are at a very low price. The Jesuits, who knew so well how to choose their residence, had given the preference to this island of the ARCHIPELAGO: they there possessed a house in the town, and one more handsome in the country; and this circumstance, in the eyes of whoever was acquainted with the turn of mind of those ancient monks, who discerned, with so much sagacity, the best points of the countries where they succeeded in extending their colossal order; this circumstance, I say, would convey a good idea of NAXIA.

The principal inhabitants, the remains of those ancient families of FRANCE, SPAIN, and ITALY, which had established themselves in different parts of GREECE, at the time of the conquests of the princes of the WEST, have there preserved the urbanity and noble and generous manners of their origin; and one is astonished to find again, in those Greeks of recent date, affability and politeness, the fruits of a careful education. The

women, full of charms, are also full of amiable qualities. There was one whose beauty, famous at the period of my travels, would have been equally so in all times and in all places.

Although NAXIA has no ports fit for the reception of vessels of a certain size, its coasts, nevertheless, afford tolerably good places of shelter against contrary winds; and the small craft of the ARCHIPELAGO are continually putting into several of its coves. On the other hand, the principal town, which also bears the name of NAXIA, and off which vessels may cast anchor in a roadstead, is at a very small distance from the much-frequented harbours of the eastern side of the Island of PAROS, and in particular of the capital road of NAUSSA, of which I have spoken in the preceding article. To the south of NAXIA, another road which is called the *road of the Salterns*, or *Port STRONGIOLI*, may also receive shipping in the summer. In short, the situation of the Island of NAXIA, its population, its fertility, and its charms, form an assemblage of inappreciable advantages which would with difficulty be met with elsewhere.

It would be an easy matter to procure there the necessary lodgings and places; and, whether

ther purchased or hired, they might be had equally cheap. A storehouse would contain the articles, the sale of which would be the most rapid and most lucrative. The purchasers might be left at liberty to pay either in money, or, what would be better, in the productions of the country, which the islanders would part with at a moderate price, in order to provide themselves with our merchandise we should, besides, be enabled to take advantage of every circumstance for purchasing, as cheaply as possible, the territorial productions which barter might not furnish. This double operation would also double the profits.

The commodities which the Island of NAXIA itself would furnish, are wine, corn, cotton, silk, oil, fruit, salt, emery, &c. It is asserted that, besides quarries of very beautiful marble, it contains mines more rich in gold and silver. It would not be to that only that the arrangements would be confined; this would, in some measure, be no more than the accessory, or rather the motive; and industry would have other means of extending itself in a suitable manner.

1. It has been said that the small craft of the ARCHIPELAGO and of the coasts of GREECE frequently

frequently put into NAXIA; the establishment would not fail to attract thither a greater number. These boats are conducted by trading Greeks, and they would take at the storehouse parcels of goods in order to convey them for sale into the other islands, and to the neighbouring coasts of ASIA and EUROPE. Obligated at present to make their purchases at SMYRNA, SALONICA, and in the other factories, where they buy from the second, and frequently from the third hand, they would find it more to their advantage to provide themselves at NAXIA; on the one hand, economy in the purchases; and on the other, a saving in the duration, the expenses and the dangers of the voyage. An important remark, which is of a nature to interest the commercial men of FRANCE, and consequently her government, is that the Greek merchants in the large sea-ports, preferred taking off English and Venetian goods which were become cheaper than ours, and, I must add, of a superior quality; for, to speak only of the woollen-cloths, there had, within these few years, been introduced so blameable a negligence and parsimony in the manufacturing of those intended for the LE-

VANT



VANT trade, that they were disdained by the Orientals.

2. It would be very useful to have one and even several caïques, for the carrying-trade from island to island, and from the latter to the adjacent coasts; they would collect in the emporium the commodities which those islands and those coasts furnish, and they would carry thither French merchandise. These little vessels belonging to Frenchmen, would be respected by the Maltese privateers, and by those of other nations, which have adopted the strange and impolitic system of a perpetual war with the Mussulmans. They would afford a safe passage and inviolable protection to the Turks and Greeks, who would hasten to freight them in order to trade in seas where they run great risks, at the same time that they pay exorbitant duties of freight and commission. Such an uninterrupted carrying-trade would yield a great return; and if, in the sequel, it were wished to give it greater increase, it would be proper to purchase a Bermudian sloop, of the burden of fifty or sixty tons. This sloop might also be made use of for voyages to FRANCE; in that case, she would not only save, but also gain, freight. This is the sort of vessel which

which lies nearer to the wind, which sails the best close-hauled, and which is the most quickly managed. Although preferable to tartans, the Bermudian sloop is not in use in the MEDITERRANEAN; yet her qualities make her well calculated for the navigation of a sea intersected by a multitude of lands, between which vessels are frequently obliged to ply in narrow channels.

3. We should not confine ourselves to purchasing, or receiving in exchange, the articles which enter into the trade used in the LEVANT; but we should also take off corn and wine, in the places and at the periods when they are in the greatest plenty. With the corn, we should make biscuit, with which, as well as with wine, we should supply the vessels which frequent the seas of TURKEY, and which would prefer drawing their provisions from the storehouse than from the sea-port towns, where all commodities are kept up at a high price. We may judge how interesting this article is, when we shall recollect that, before the war, there were no less than five hundred French vessels engaged in the carrying-trade, in the part of the MEDITERRANEAN which bathes the Ottoman possessions. I have said that these vessels left

FRANCE

FRANCE in ballast, and that they failed for three years, in the service and at the expense of the Levantines, who, for fear of privateers, durst not make use of their own vessels. Peace will restore to the French carrying-trade its former activity. Upwards of three hundred vessels, Venetians, Ragusans, Neapolitans, &c, there also exercised this sort of carrying-trade, in competition with the French, without reckoning the ships of all nations employed in regular voyages, that is, direct from EUROPE to one of the sea-ports in the LEVANT. The victualling of the ships would not form the only consumption of biscuit; there are islands in the ARCHIPELAGO which cannot support their inhabitants, either on account of the aridity of their soil, or from the weakness of their population, or because the islanders, given up to fishing or navigation, do not employ themselves in the culture of their lands; or in short, because despotism, by enchaining industry, there extinguishes even foresight, that ordinary companion of the love of existence. During the winter, a period when navigation is benumbed, fishing suspended, and want more perceptible, boats, loaded with biscuit, would  
be

be received in those islands, with eagerness, and their cargoes purchased with avidity.

4. The progress and success of the undertaking depend, in a great measure, on celebrity in the carrying-trade; boats which would never remain in inaction, would be sometimes employed in bringing to the storehouse, wood which the crews would cut on the coasts, where frequently the finest trees cost only the trouble of felling them; of those we would fashion ship-timber equally in request by the Levantines and by the ships of EUROPE. We should even derive a profit from it, by sending it to FRANCE.

This summary, although greatly abridged, shews sufficiently how many means we should have of enlarging the commerce of the ARCHIPELAGO; they would be increased on the spot by a crowd of circumstances which would rapidly succeed each other, and, especially, as I have already said, by local knowledge, enlightened attention, and industrious activity.

The goods for importation from the ARCHIPELAGO are of two sorts: those which are common to all the LEVANT, as wax, oil, foot, silk, wool, cotton, hair, goat's hair, ox's hides and horns, cow's hair, drugs, raisins, and figs,

coffee, &c. &c; and those which are peculiar to the islands, are mastic, turpentine, jafmin pomatum, stuffs and purfes of SCIO filk, *dimities*\* and *scamittes* of SANTORIN, PAROS, &c; stockings and caps of ARGENTIERA cotton, TINO knit filk stockings, native MILO alum and fulphur, mill-ftones from the fame island, wines of SAMOS, SANTORIN, TENEDOS, SCOPOLI, NAXIA, and CANDIA; NAXIA and PAROS marbles, carnelions, faffron, fponges, archil, Cimolean earth, coloquintida, cyprefs gum and cones, filtering-ftones, gall-nuts, marum, ortolans in barrels, cuttle-fifh bones, &c. &c.

The articles for exportation fhould be very diverfified. It is important always to have a complete affortment of them, and to proportion the quantity of each of the articles, to the confumption and tafte of the people for whom they are intended. The following is an account of them, in which I have adopted alphabetical order, as the moft convenient, and I have there diftinguifhed the more or

\* *Dimity* is a cotton cloth croffed, finer, ftronger, and more in request than the *scamitte*, another fort of plain cotton cloth.



less great consumption of the various articles.\*

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## LIST

*Of the different articles of merchandise which enter into the trade of the ARCHIPELAGO.*

Barracan

Beef-salt

Beer

Blondes

Bottles (glafs)

Bracelets

Brocades (flight)

Buttons, *a small quantity.*

Bougie (spun)

\* This account, which I had published in 1797, was addressed officially, by the minister of the interior, to all the departmental administrations, at the epoch of the capture of the Venetian Islands, and the Isle of *Cerigo* by the French armies; in order to direct, in a certain manner, the speculations towards the commerce of these same islands. This adoption of my views, on the part of the government, must, undoubtedly, do me honour, but no one has known that they were mine, and I take the liberty of making this observation, only to secure myself from the suspicion of plagiarism towards the minister of the interior of that time.

Cadis, a sort of serge

Calmande

Cambric

Candles (wax) for the table, *a small quantity*

Caps (worsted) red and others

Cards (playing) *a few new, more old ones.*

Chali, a sort of twilled serge

Chisels for stone-cutters, marble-cutters,  
joiners, ironmongers, &c.

Cloth (gold and silver) out of fashion, and in  
remnants only.

Cloth (hempen) common and Dutch

Cloth (sail)

Cloths (woollen)

Combs

Cords

Corks for dame-jeannes and bottles, *a great  
many.*

Crape (Swiss)

Crockery

Damask

Dame-jeannes covered with straw.

Damasquette (Venice)

Drugget

Drugs (compounded)

Ferret

Flowers (Italian)

Fustain

Gauze

Glaffes for mirrors

Glafs-ware

Grogrammes

Gunpowder

Hams

Handkerchiefs (pocket)

Hangings

Hardware

Hats

Herrings

Iron

Kitchen utensils

Lace (narrow French thread) black and white,  
of little value.

Lace (net) gold and silver, more false than  
genuine.

Lace (gold and silver) of all breadths, and of  
the most showy patterns.

Lead

Legumes

Linon or French lawn

Mohair

Muskets

Nails

Necklaces

Needles, *a great many*.

Nutmegs

Packthread

Paper

—— painted

Parchment, *a little.*

Pasteboard

Pearls

Pins

Pistols

Planks

Prunes

Ribands (filk) of all sorts, and especially the  
handsomest, *a great many.*

Rings

Salmon

Sardines

Sattins

Sciffars

Serge

Sergette

Ship-timber

Shoes (embroidered, for women)

Spirit of wine

Steel

Stockings (thread) *a great many, a few pairs*  
of filk.

Stuffs of all sorts, besides those mentioned in  
this list, and to choose among the most  
*showy; by way of trial.*

Sugar

Sugar

—— in powder

Sugarcandy

Taffety

Tea

Thimbles for fowing

Thread

Thonine

Treacle

Watches (large) some with Turkish dial-plates  
and characters.

Wax-candles

Wax-tapers in rolls

Wire (brass)

—— iron

Velvet (coloured silk)

Velvet (cotton)

N. B. It is not possible to fix the sums that would be required for the establishment of which I have just treated: the more or less importance that we should propose to give it would regulate the amount. We might begin at a small expense, and impress on it by degrees the movement fit for insuring it the greatest profits.



## CHAPTER XXXVI.

*Island of Stenofa. — Island of Patmos. — Its convent. — Its harbours. — Its population. — Small islands near Patmos. — Isle of Samos. — Its fertility. — Its wines. — Its position. — Fournis Islands. — Island of Nicaria. — Island of Myconi. — Its harbours. — Its inhabitants. — Its resources — Dress of the women. — Trago-nisi. — Stapodia. — Isle of Delos. — What it was formerly. — What it is in our days. — Island of Rhene. — Rematiari. — Island of Tino. — Its nature. — Its silk stockings. — Women of TINO.*

NEAR the Island of NAXIA, towards the east, lies that of STENOSA, or NARROW ISLAND, which is, in fact, very small and uninhabited.

Farther on, to the north-north-east, the Island of PATMOS, whose name has been disfigured by our navigators into that of SAINT JEAN DE PATINO, exhibits its arid rocks and numerous capes. It is celebrated in ecclesiastical

ecclesiastical history, from the exile of St. JOHN, and still more from the visions and revelations which he there received, and which served him for composing the Apocalypse. Some Caloyers, inhabitants of a vast monastery built on an eminence, and which, at the first view, one would be tempted to take for a fortress, true disciples of stupid ignorance, still shew the grotto where the saint wrote his mysterious book, and even the hole in the wall through which he received the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

There is no library in this convent; and of what utility would it be, among people who, for the most part, cannot read? Out of eighty monks who reside there, M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER found only three who knew how to read, but who made little use of that knowledge\*. It is, nevertheless, this haunt of brutality and ignorance, where the alphabet is scarcely known, which has been represented recently as a place famous for its schools of literature†.

The Island of PATMOS is little more than six leagues in circuit; considerably longer

\* *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, tom. i, page 103.

† *Magasin Encyclopédique*, 4th year, No. xxiii. page 293.

than broad, its direction is from north to south; its form is very irregular. Its coasts are divided by a multitude of gulfs and coves, and are remarkable for the number of good harbours which they present to navigators, and among which that of *SCALA* is one of the finest in the *ARCHIPELAGO*. Whatever advantages may be derived from its harbours by a country whose position marks it out for a place of trade, wretchedness has not, on that account, the less got possession of *PATMOS*. Vallies which might insure abundance, are uncultivated, and from their state of abandonment and nakedness, offer, with the hills by which they are surrounded, only the same afflicting tint of ruggedness and misfortune. Population, which follows the chances of agriculture and industry, is there singularly diminished; and, while the monasteries swarm with sluggards, the fields become deserts. In the summer, few men remain here; they almost all go and seek far off means of subsistence, or carry on with their caïques, a traffic which feeds, but does not enrich them. The women remain intrusted with domestic cares, and to make the most of a few pieces of land, during the absence of their fathers or husbands; and this timid tribe hide and shut themselves

themselves up, when they see strangers land in their island.

Several small islands are situated to the east of *PATMOS*, in the great bight of the sea, between the Islands of *STANCHO* and *SAMOS*. These islands are *NACRI*, *LYPSO*, *AGATHO-NISI*, and *FERMACO*, they are all nearly uninhabited. To the north of them lies an island more famous and more important, that of *SAMOS* of *IONIA*; for the ancients had imposed this same name of *SAMOS* on three different islands: the one situated near *THRACE*, whence it had taken the denomination of *SAMOS OF THRACE*, or, in a single word, *SAMOTHRACE*, at present *SAMANDRACHI*; the second, which the Greeks called *SAMOS THE STEEP*, at present *CEPHALONIA*; lastly, the third, lying very near the coast of *IONIA*, and of which I am now speaking. Some assert that the name of *SAMOS*, which has replaced several other names that this island had before, was given to it from a hero who was born there: others affirm that the Greeks, calling all elevated places *SAMOS*, had, under this denomination, designated an island which, in fact, presents considerable eminences.

It was formerly consecrated to *JUNO* who there received life, on the banks of the

river IMBRASUS, and under the shade of an *agnus castus*, or chaste tree, a shrub common in SAMOS, as well as in the other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. A magnificent temple had been erected in honour of the goddess: at this day, a few remains of it are scarcely to be found; it is annihilated, as well as the ancient splendour of the island. SAMOS was also the cradle of PYTHAGORAS, of the poet CHERILUS, of the mathematician CONON, cotemporary of ARCHIMEDES, of TIMANTHUS, one of the most famous painters of ancient GREECE; and it was in the same island that HERODOTUS, flying from tyranny, sought an asylum, and composed in a sweet retreat the first books of his history.

For a long time past we cannot quote any celebrated personage born at SAMOS. It is not under the reign of heavy tyranny that genius and talents prosper, and slaves can become great men. But the Samians distinguish themselves by amiable qualities; they are the mildest and most witty of the Greeks. Their country still possesses every thing required to become flourishing: very good harbours, the best of which is that of VATHI, a position very advantageous for trade, a fertile soil, a wholesome climate, a pure air, and abundant waters.

What



What sources of riches and happiness, if impure hands had not dried them up by an administration which seems to have been engendered by the genius of destruction!

The productions of SAMOS are the same as those of the most favoured islands; they might acquire greater abundance and variety, if the inhabitants durst give themselves up to labours, which, in a state well organized, would be animated by encouragement. The ancients admired the brilliant fertility of this island; it was an object of envy in the eyes of several nations, which repeatedly attempted to make themselves masters of it. To convey an idea of this abundance, it was commonly said that at SAMOS hens even gave milk. But what is singular, is that the ancients there found every thing excellent, except the wine\*; while it makes, at present, and deservedly too, one of the best revenues of the island; and its muscadine wines would, with greater precautions, and if they were kept, attain the quality of that of CYPRUS, so esteemed among us. During my abode in the ARCHIPELAGO, I saw se-

\* *Ex vino infelix est cum cæteræ circumvicinæ vino optime abundant.* STRABO, rerum geograph. lib. xiv.

veral large ships from the North, and particularly Swedes, take in at SAMOS cargoes of wines, in order to convey them into their country, and I always have been surpris'd that they have not been more in vogue in FRANCE.

The Island of SAMOS is about ten leagues in length, and nearly the half in its greatest breadth; but this extent in length exists only in a single point, on account of a narrow cape, stretching very far towards the south, which is called Cape COLONNI, and a few fragments of which have been separated by the sea: these are called SAMO-POULO or LITTLE SAMOS. GREAT SAMOS is itself but a fragment more considerable, detached from the continent, from which it is separated only by a channel that is scarcely half a league in width. Navigators are acquainted with this little strait under the name of LITTLE BOGAZ; the great Bogaz of SAMOS, which is nearly two leagues in breadth, lies to the west, between that island and the small FOURNIS Islands, called thus, because, at a distance, they have the figure of roofs of ovens: they were anciently called CORSEÆ INSULÆ. This is a passage much frequented by ships sailing

ing from CONSTANTINOPLE to SYRIA and EGYPT, and they there find good anchorages.

Near these islets, to the west, is the Island of *NICARIA*, anciently *ICARIA*, on account of the son of *DÆDALUS*, who fell there in the midst of his rash flight, whence the sea which surrounds it also took the name of *ICARIAN SEA*. The island is not considerable; its length greatly exceeds its breadth; it is discoverable at a very great distance; but navigators do not endeavour to land there, because it has no harbours. A scanty population, want of energy, a soil too ungrateful in several districts, general discouragement which the government impresses throughout the extent of its domination, are little calculated to repair the disadvantage of an island which is deprived of places of shelter for shipping, and consequently of great means of trade; so that *NICARIA* may be reckoned among the most wretched islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO*.

This is not the case with *MYCONI*, situated at some distance from *NICARIA*, towards the west. A harbour known by the name of *TOURLON*, on the west side of the island, is an anchorage frequented by ships sailing through the *ARCHIPELAGO*, in order to re-  
pair

pair to SMYRNA and the north of TURKEY; they are there in safety against the winds from the north, north-east, south, and south-east; but the others blow right in there, and raise a heavy sea. When navigators seek a shelter against these same winds, they find it off the small town or village of MYCONI; but they are there buffeted by those which cannot penetrate into the anchorage of TOURLON.

The Greeks of MYCONI are great navigators; they traverse the sea that surrounds them with their boats, among which there are some rather large. Addicted to maritime trade, they neglect the culture of their lands, from which they might, nevertheless, derive considerable advantage. All the productions which they yield in too small a quantity, for want of culture, are of a very good quality; wine and fruits are there excellent: but though wine is almost the only article of commerce of the Myconites, they mix it with water to increase its quantity, without paying attention that they diminish its value. Game abounds there; the most delicate birds arrive in numerous flights twice a year, in spring and autumn; in short, all the necessary or agreeable articles of life are there to be found  
in

in profusion. But water is scarce; and, during the great heat of summer, every thing is dry in the fields, and assumes the aspect of aridity. This drought, the intensity of which might, with ease, be diminished, has, doubtless, contributed to narrow there the domain of agriculture, and to induce men to seek, abroad, means of existence more certain and less laborious.

The name of this island has not changed; the Greeks called it *MYCONOS*. Fable makes it the tomb of the Centaurs that were killed by *HERCULES*. The ancient writers have called the inhabitants of *MYCONI*, bald heads: it is asserted that this was a defect which was natural to them, and as it were an endemical disease with which they almost all came into the world. We no longer remark among the present islanders these dispositions to become bald. Those of antiquity were likewise reckoned great parasites, and men who presented themselves at feasts, without being invited, were proverbially called *guests of MYCONI*; a habit which not only announces distress, or excess of gluttony, but also an absolute want of delicacy among those who have contracted it.



When we have seen the dress of the women of MILO and ARGENTIERA, we no longer find that of the female Greeks of MYCONI so ridiculous; it somewhat resembles the former, yet without being so whimsical; it is, in general, more loaded with ornaments heaped up without taste, without intelligence, but which are not, on that account, less disadvantageous to beauty. The principal occupation of these women is to spin cotton which grows in their island, and to make it into stockings or cloths.

A shoal uninhabited, and to which the Myconites send flocks, affords a good anchorage a league to the east of MYCONI; it is called *TRAGONISI*, that is, he-goat island, because, in all probability, it formerly contained wild he and she-goats; but none are seen there at present.

Lower, and a little farther from MYCONI, are two points of arid rocks, which the Greeks call *STAPODIA*; and our navigators, *LES DEUX FRÈRES*.

A sort of religious tremor takes possession of the mind, when, on quitting the Island of MYCONI, one makes sail to the west, and approaches an island very small, but which was in antiquity the most celebrated of all; a sacred

sacred spot, the cradle of APOLLO and DIANA, the subject of the songs of the most famous poets, and the object of the veneration of the ancients, who came thither to adore APOLLO in a temple, one of the most superb edifices on earth, and the majestic ornament of the most magnificent city in the world. Who has not heard of the wonders of DELOS, of its monuments, of its riches, of its brilliant population, of the magnificent elegance of its architecture? Who, with a taste for the beautiful, has not, in the annals of the happy days of GREECE, greedily sought the description of so many miracles of art? I shall not here repeat what may be read in several works of great merit, among which that of BARTHELEMI ought, in my opinion, to hold the first rank\*.

But the Island of DELOS, formerly so opulent, and where were celebrated with so much pomp religious ceremonies, in presence of an immense concourse who repaired thither from all points of the EAST, is now no longer any thing but a desert abandoned to filthy animals and covered with ruins and rubbish, Pirates and robbers are almost the only men

\* *Voyage du jeune Anarcharsis.*

who land there; they go thither to share the fruit of their plunder, or concert new schemes of rapine, seated on fragments of altars where incense and perfumes burnt in honour of the god of day.

The ruins of DELOS, the imposing remains of the most beautiful edifices of which ancient GREECE was proud, are now no longer what they were at the periods when modern travellers visited and described them. They themselves have their ruins, and they owe this fresh degradation to the profane barbarism of people who came thither to take materials for building their houses, or to wretched Turkish sculptors, who carry off every year precious pieces, in order to make of them those little pillars surmounted by a turban, which the Mahometans erect over the grave of the dead. The name even of DELOS is forgotten in the seas where it had acquired so great a celebrity. The Greeks at this day name *DILI* the two islands of DELOS, and our navigators distinguish them by the denomination of *ISDILES*, *LES ISDILES*.

A strait of about five hundred toises, separates the famous island of DELOS from that of *RHENEA*, or great DELOS, equally desert, and which served as a place of sepulture

ture to the former, in which it was forbidden to bury. In the middle of this narrow channel, are two shoals called the *GREAT* and the *LITTLE REMATIARI*: the ancient Greeks had consecrated the larger to *HECATE* or *DIANA*, and they called it the *ISLAND OF HECATE*, or *PSAMMITE*. Ships, even men of war, find good anchorage near this shoal.

Almost all the vessels which repair to *SMYRNA* and to the other sea ports of *ASIA MINOR*, sail out between the Islands of *TINO* and *MYCONI*, a channel which is not more than a league and a half in width. When the north wind blows with any degree of violence, it becomes impetuous in this passage, and the sea there rises with fury. The Island of *TINO* has no good harbour; there is only a rather bad roadstead off the small town of *SAN NICOLO*, built on the ruins of the ancient town of *TENOS*, the capital of the island, whose name has not, as is seen, much changed. Near the ancient town, a temple had been erected to *NEPTUNE* who was there revered, because to this god the inhabitants attributed the happiness of having been freed from a prodigious number of snakes which infested the island, and whence

it had taken the name of *SNAKE ISLAND*. This temple no longer exists in the memory of men, neither does the town of *TENOS*; but the whole island is a real temple, dear to Nature, and which she has taken a delight to adorn with her favours. Its rich plains are still decked with all the opulence of industry. The inhabitants are active and numerous; every thing there combines to make it one of the most agreeable islands of *GREECE*, and at the same time one of those where comfort and happiness appear to fix themselves with most constancy. What would it be, if so many advantages could be seconded by a wise liberty, which constitutes the strength and prosperity of empires!

One of the most abundant productions of the island is silk; the women employ themselves in feeding the insect which yields it, in winding it into skains, in spinning it and knitting it into stockings, which have not the lustre of stockings wove in the loom, but which are far better, cheaper, and of excellent wear. It is, no doubt, the fear of injuring our manufactories, which had prevented the introduction into *FRANCE* of the works in silk, knit by the women of *TINO*; they would, nevertheless, deserve to be



be brought thither, and they would suit persons who prefer what is solid to what is agreeable.

The dress of the women given to pleasant but uninterrupted occupations, has nothing of the whimsicalness of that of the women of several other islands; it is at the same time noble and elegant. Beauty, the general appendage of the female Tiniots, under this dress, neither loses the graces of its outlines, nor its bewitching forms, and the amenity of disposition, the ingenuous candour, an innocent desire to please, there render the young women extremely amiable, and extremely attractive.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

*Scio.—Character of its inhabitants, and particularly of the women.—Their clothing.—Silk purses which they work.—Witchcraft arising from the look of Envy.—Trade of the Isle of Scio.—Its wines.—Culture of the vine and of mastic.—Its plains.—Leprosy.—Harbour of Scio.—Island of Ipsara.—The Islands Spalmadori, Pysargos, and Venetico.—Tschesmé—Engagement between the Russians and Turks.—Journey by land from Tschesmé to Smyrna.—Warm baths.—Caravanfary.*

“THERE is no town,” says BE’LON, “where  
 “ people are more obliging than at CHIO.  
 “ And, indeed, it is, in my mind, the most  
 “ agreeable place of residence that I know,  
 “ and where the women are most courteous  
 “ and handsome. They afford an infallible  
 “ testimony of their ancient beauty; for,  
 “ as a nymph in the Island of CHIO, sur-  
 “ passing snow in whiteness, was called by  
 “ the

“ the Greek name *CHIONE*, that is to say,  
 “ snow; in this very manner the island tak-  
 “ ing the name of the nymph, was surnamed  
 “ *CHIO*. The men there are also very ami-  
 “ able; and though this is a Greek island,  
 “ however, for the most part, people live  
 “ there in the style of the Franks, that is,  
 “ after the manner of the Latins\*.”

What BE'LON wrote in the sixteenth cen-  
 tury, respecting the capital town of the Isle  
 of Scio, is still conformable to truth, except  
 a few modifications, or rather a few deteri-  
 orations, physical and moral, the habitual  
 effects of the presence and harsh and impro-  
 vident administration of the Ottomans. The  
 town is tolerably large and well built; it is  
 the work of the Genoese, who for a long  
 time had the whole island in their possession.  
 The ancient town, which, as well as the island,  
 bore the name of *CHIOS* or *CHIO*, was placed  
 on the summit of a mountain. The modern  
 town is at the foot of this same mountain,  
 by the sea-side, and its situation is thence  
 become much more agreeable. The Greeks

\* *Les Observations de plusieurs singularitez et choses mémor-  
 ables, trouvées en Grèce, Asie, &c. &c.* par PIERRE BE'LON.  
 liv. ii. chap. viii.

who inhabit it are still, as in BE'LON's time, the most polite, the most affable, the most gay, and, perhaps, the most witty of all the Greeks. The women there are charming, and, as BE'LON says, very courteous. There are none, perhaps, who have such engaging manners; and, to see them at the doors of their houses, press strangers to enter with them, pull them even by the arm, and invite them with much sprightliness, we cannot, at first, avoid conceiving an improper opinion of women so free in appearance. But all these demonstrations, which, among us, are the height of depravity, are, at SCIO, no more than the ebullitions of an affectionate and hospitable heart, and of the wish to derive some advantage from the works on which they employ themselves; and any one would be singularly deceived, if, emboldened by the semblance of enticements, he should attempt to take an unfair advantage of women, who introduce strangers into their houses with a frankness which, from a habit of corruption, is reckoned a want of reserve. Under appearances the most attractive, and at the same time the most familiar and engaging, the seducer would, in an easy *tête-à-tête*, meet with only the imposing

posing resistance of the most rigid virtue, and the shame of being mistaken.

These women so frank, but at the same time so virtuous, knit with silk several sorts of works, and particularly handsome purses. The desire of selling them has induced those who work them, to learn to offer them in the language of all the nations which traffic in the LEVANT; and a Frenchman, as well as an Italian and a Swede, heard himself addressed from all quarters, in his language, when he passed in the streets of Scio, “Sir, “Sir, come and see some handsome purses!” I bought some of these purses at Scio; the handsomest, which are also the largest, cost me not three livres a piece, and they could not be procured in FRANCE for more than double that price.

The rearing of silk-worms is an occupation almost general at Scio. The women there principally apply themselves to it, and they take every precaution imaginable, in order that some ill-disposed person may not cast on valuable insects the pestiferous look of envy, which, according to the Greeks, would not fail to kill them. This sort of superstitious creed, of which I have spoken more in detail in Chapter XXVII. is general in Greece, where



where it is applied to all animated beings. In some parts of FRANCE and GERMANY, the country people dread the influence of sinister looks only for their cattle, and the Spanish ladies of PERU fear it for themselves\*. It is easier to spread an error all the world over than to propagate a truth.

If any thing could disparage the charms and affability of the women of SCIO, it would, undoubtedly, be their manner of dressing themselves. Their clothing is without grace, and put on without taste. The more they endeavour to adorn themselves, the more they recede from the rules of an art which, in order to be attended with success, ought to tend only to set to advantage the beautiful forms of nature. The female Sciots seem to

\*“ The ladies of *Peru* wear round their necklace amulets, which are medals without an impression, and a small hand of jet, three lines broad, or fig-tree wood called *biga*, closed with the exception of the thumb, which is raised. The idea of virtue which they attribute to these amulets, is to secure themselves from the complaint which they imagine may be communicated to them by those who admire their beauty; a complaint which they call the disorder of the eyes. Some of these preparatives, of a larger size, are made for children. This superstition is common to the ladies and to the people.” *Voyage à la mer du Sud, par FRÉZIER, page 219.*

envelop these in a sack; their head is loaded with a high and shapeless head-dress, somewhat similar to the cap of the Mamalûks of EGYPT; and their manner of adorning their feet is no less inconvenient than ridiculous. I have caused to be drawn a pair of shoes or sandals of the women of SCIO, at the bottom of *Plate VI.* which represents the costume, still more absurd, of the women of ARGENTIERA.

Silk constitutes the principal wealth of SCIO; velvets, damasks, and stuffs of different sorts are there manufactured: but these efforts of happy industry, instead of having been encouraged, have experienced difficulties and obstacles, which have caused the number and the produce of the manufactories to diminish. This island partakes with others of the same sea, the trade of wool, wax, oil, and excellent fruits, especially sweet-scented oranges and figs, which are conveyed into the great towns of TURKEY. It is well known that SCIO produced wines held in great repute among the ancients; historians and poets have extolled them as the best in GREECE, a country famous for delicious wines. At ROME, they were prescribed for disorders of the stomach, and CESAR regaled his friends with them

them in the entertainments which he gave on the occasion of his triumphs, and in the festivals in honour of JUPITER and the other Gods\*. These wines, so celebrated by the wine connoisseurs of antiquity, are still very good at this day. The vine is, among the present Greeks, an object of great culture and attention; they plant it on the sloping grounds, and before they make the wine, they suffer the grapes, which they cut in the month of August, to dry for a week in the sun. They have preserved the manner proposed by CATO (*De re rusticâ*), for securing vines from the ravages of insects, and which consists in surrounding the plants with a mixture of bitumen, sulphur, and oil. This preservative, described by CATO, has been announced in our days as a novelty, in several works of rural economy; and it is not the only very old discovery with which certain authors have wished to do themselves honour in more than one way. However this may be, the authority of CATO, whose writings on agriculture are a model of simplicity and perspicuity, indispensable in works of this sort, and which have not had many imita-

\* Plin. Hist. Nat. lib. xiv. cap. vii. xiv. and xv.

tors, a happy and immemorial practice among a nation, whose wines have had and preserved a great name, must inspire confidence, and induce the adoption of a preservative so useful.

But a trade peculiar to the Isle of Scio, is the resin, which is there made to exude from the lentisk; whole fields are covered with this shrub, whose wood also furnishes the best toothpicks to the fancy of the Roman ladies. The mastic which is drawn from it, is one of the most certain productions of the island: it is carried to CONSTANTINOPLE, and into the great cities of the Empire, where the women are incessantly chewing it in order to render their breath sweet and agreeable. This resin was sold at Scio, when I passed there, for about five livres of our money the pound. There is also made, with mastic, a brandy very good and agreeable.

When one comes from any of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, whose soil is rude and mountainous, one is struck by the richness and beauty of the Island of Scio. A town elegantly built, agreeable gardens, plains delightful from the gifts of nature and the labours of a well-understood culture, mountains whose arid surface still throws more charms over rich vallies, an amiable and  
3 industrious

industrious people — every thing contributes to make Scio a very agreeable place, and it is with regret that one sees it delivered up to the despotic ignorance of the Turks. Their sinister improvidence there frequently suffers the introduction of destructive scourges, among which they themselves hold a very remarkable rank, and the plague often exercises its ravages in this charming country.

The leprosy also there propagates its disgusting symptoms; and what proves that the precautions claimed by humanity, but of which a stupid administration is incapable, would be sufficient to annihilate it, is that the species of leprosy, common in all the EAST, and of which so many victims are seen in CANDIA, the Jews' leprosy, is there becoming more rare from day to day.

There is nothing wanting at Scio to render its trade more flourishing, but a good harbour; that which exists is by no means spacious or deep; and rocks, even with the water's edge, obstruct its entrance: it can receive none but small vessels; large ships and men of war anchor without, in an open road, which has, at least, the advantage of affording the facility of going out of it with all winds. FRANCE maintained at Scio a vice-consul



consul; he occupied a large and agreeable house; the Jesuits had also a convent there; but what is of greater importance, no merchant of our nation was there established, although several had been settled there formerly, and it is a place of great trade, both on account of the rich productions of the island, and the crowd of shipping which put in there, or come thither to take in cargoes.

Round Scio are several small islands. About two leagues to the west of Cape SAN NICOLO, the most northern of the island, is *IPSARA*, which the ancients called *PSYRA* and *PSYRIA*, on which there was a town of the same name, whose place is now occupied by the modern town: here a few vestiges of the ancient city are still to be seen. This town is the only habitation of the island, which is small, stony, and affords no great resources to agriculture and commerce. The vine delights in this stony soil, and it is to its culture that the rural industry of the Ispariots is nearly limited, as the wine which they export is their only branch of commerce.

A league from *IPSARA*, lies an islet smaller and desert, which is called *ANTI-IPSARA*; it is scarcely two leagues in circumference:

between these two islands, ships find a very good anchorage.

Nearer, and to the east of SCIO, some islets, called *SPALMADORI*, and anciently *ÆNUSSA*, still form for large ships a safe road. More to the south lie two shoals, to which the ancient Greeks have given the name of *CASYTES*, and the moderns that of *PYSARGOS*; lastly, at the most southern point of the island, called Cape *MASTICO*, because it is in this district that mastic is gathered, another shoal, which has received the name of *VENETICO*, leaves sufficient space for ships to pass there without risk, a sea deep and clear, alike bathing the cape and the shoal.

The channel which separates the Isle of SCIO from ASIA MINOR, is but two or three leagues in width. On the continent, the gulf and the little town of *TSCHESMÉ* are opposite to the town of SCIO itself, eternal testimonies of the defeat and shame of the Ottoman navy. It was in the very harbour of *TSCHESMÉ*, that, in the month of July, 1770, the Turkish fleet, consisting of twenty-five sail, fifteen of which were large caravels, was entirely destroyed by a Russian squadron of nine ships of the line and six frigates, under the command of Count *ALEXIS ORLOFF*.

Never was victory more terrible nor more complete: all the Turkish ships were abandoned to the flames, all blew up with a dreadful crash; almost all the crews perished in this conflagration, and of all their navy, there remained to the Turks, after this battle, only two ships, which had not been able to join the fleet, and another old ship unfit for service, in the channel of CONSTANTINOPLE. This formidable fleet, which ought in appearance to have driven the Russians out of the seas of the LEVANT, disappeared in an instant, and the latter remained masters of the ARCHIPELAGO; had they chosen, they might likewise have become masters of the capital of the empire, for the discouragement was general, and the castles of the DARDANELLES, not being in a condition to make a powerful resistance, would not have been able to stop the conquerors. Carcasses of ships half burnt and sunk, tops of masts appearing out of the water, in the head of the harbour of TSCHESME', still attest this event memorable and glorious for the Russians, who displayed as much courage and skill in naval tactics, as their enemies shewed ignorance and cowardice.

TSCHESME', whose name recalls that of CYSSUS, which this town formerly bore, affords

nothing remarkable; it is built on the declivity of a hill, at the head of the harbour. I had repaired thither with a boat, belonging to the country, which was to take me to SMYRNA; but, after having put into Scio, and struggled a long time against the northerly wind in order to get out of the channel, I was forced to seek there a place of shelter. Tired of waiting for more favourable weather, I resolved to proceed to SMYRNA by land. I presented myself, according to my custom, to the Turkish commandant at TSCHESME', with my firman; he instantly procured me horses and a *bareikdar*, or ensign, to accompany me.

A league from TSCHESME', I saw a spring of hot and mineral water, where the Turks belonging to the town go to take vapour baths. I there beheld a great crowd of bathers; it was on a Friday, a holiday for the Mahometans; however, they find there no other refreshments than coffee, a beverage with which they can no more dispense than with baths. The road, beyond these baths, becomes rather bad and difficult, across a chain of lofty, stony mountains, covered with pines. I stopped, to pass the night, in a caravan-fary, where all travellers are received and fed

fed indistinctly, without being put at any expense. The aliments, which are there served, are simple, and common to all passengers ; they consist of bread, a dish of eggs, and water. The house is endowed with property, sufficient for providing for the temporary refreshment of travellers. Foundations of this sort are not uncommon in the EAST, the abode of hospitality : in my opinion, they indicate the more greatness of mind and frank generosity, as spirit of pride and ostentation, of which an apparent beneficence is but too frequently the cloak, can have in them no share, since it is only on the death of the founder, that we are aware of the good which he has done. On the other hand, there are, in those countries, neither great talkers nor officious public papers, which recommend to general admiration actions, all the merit of which often lies only in an ambitious publicity, and we there bless the memory of the founder without knowing his name.

Very early the next morning, I quitted a sort of inn, very simple indeed, but which a traveller leaves with his mind as much satisfied as it is frequently soured, by the insipid hospitality and the scandalous cupidity that is met with in the multitude of inns with which



our highways are covered. After having followed some roads still worse than the day before, I arrived early at *DOURLAK* or *VOURLA*, a small town, situated on the south coast of the Gulf of *SMYRNA*, and, according to every probability, built on the ruins of *CLAZOMENA*, an illustrious city of ancient GREECE, and the country of *ANAXAGORAS*. Several small islands, which lie in front, also bear the name of *DOURLAK*, and form a very good harbour, whither trading vessels come sometimes to take in dry fruits and other commodities.

It is reckoned twelve hours' journey from *TSCHEMES* to *DOURLAK*; I was very well received here by a Greek mongrel, for he was the son of a Frenchman and a Greek woman. He had been settled here for a long time, and practised physic; he was, besides, very eager to render services to the French, whom he considered as his countrymen. Here I took other horses, which the Turkish commandant procured me; he also gave me a *ulugh-bachi*, or captain of the gates, as an escort. The road which leads from *DOURLAK* to *SMYRNA*, is more agreeable than that from *TSCHEMES* to *DOURLAK*. It runs along the coast of the gulf; the way is not solitary; you pass by habitations; birds are numerous  
on

on the trees of the country, and those of the shore give life even to the sand of the beach; while vessels of every size, with swelling sails, seem to fly over the surface of the waters.

After having passed *CAYADERA*, you leave on the right two mountains, or rather two points of mountains, which appear of similar form and size: our seamen of the *MEDITERRANEAN* have given to these two hills the denomination of *pouffos*, which in the Provençal dialect signifies *mamelles*, (paps). You then arrive at a fortress, which is called *SMYRNA CASTLE*, intended for defending the approaches of that large city. Ships are compelled to pass under the cannon of this fort, in order to avoid some shoals by which this part of the gulf is obstructed; and it would perfectly accomplish its destination, were it not in a state of decay, which would render it a weak place of defence. In short, after having travelled about ten leagues, you arrive at *SMYRNA*, a large city, built at the very head of the gulf, at the foot of a hill, and on the sea-shore.

There is not in the *LEVANT* any situation better calculated to be the centre of a flourishing trade than that of *SMYRNA*; it was also the richest and most splendid sea-port.

Numerous caravans bring thither from the interior, spun cotton, filky ANGORA fleeces, PERSIA silk and carpets, drugs of every species, wax, figs, the fine dry raisins, known by the French, in the LEVANT trade under the name of *pances de SMYRNE*, &c. &c. and even goods and merchandise from the south of INDIA by way of PERSIA and ALEPPO; while ships of all the trading nations of EUROPE, loaded with commodities from that part of the world and with those of AMERICA, arrive and succeed each other in a harbour, no less spacious than safe and convenient. This was also the rendezvous of ships of war belonging to the European nations, intended for protecting merchant-vessels in the seas of TURKEY. They retired thither during the two or three winter months, a season in which the navigation of the ARCHIPELAGO is very dangerous, on account of the long nights, which frequently prevent a navigator from knowing where he is, in the midst of a labyrinth formed by a multitude of islands lying near to each other, and of waves which, not being able to spread, break, and are thrown back on all sides with much impetuosity, which, according to the expression of the ancients, gives them some resemblance to goats bounding

in the fields. Entertainments given and returned, made this refreshing place a port very agreeable and much wished for by the officers of those ships.

The quarter of SMYRNA occupied by the Europeans, resembled a town of EUROPE, and the mild and tolerating character of the Turks, inhabitants of the other quarters, rendered it a tranquil and safe residence to strangers. An active industry and no small share of affability, reign among the Greeks of this town; their women have all the exterior qualities of beauty, and they know how to give them still more charms and display, by the noble, agreeable, and even voluptuous form of their garments. A few traders of EUROPE there displayed great luxury. Our consul-general, of whom the merchants had frequently to complain, forgetting the origin of his institution, and fancying himself governor general or ambassador, lived there in much hauteur and pomp. I was really shocked at being a witness of a bargain concluded by a consul for the hire of a house; the annual price of this rent, ruinous to trade, was settled at eleven hundred Turkish piastres, that is, near twenty-seven thousand livres. It was certainly necessary, that the  
other

other parts of the expenſe ſhould agree with that of the houſe, and one may judge how ſuch eſtabliſhments, regulated on baſes ſo defective, became burdensome to the State, without being more uſeful to commerce. This ſtyle of grandeur, which frequently bordered on an unbecoming hauteur, even reached the very counting-houſes of the traders, and one was aſtoniſhed to find among ſimple factors or brokers lofty and pompous pretenſions. This ſpirit, by no means compatible with that of traffic, continued always increaſing, without commercial operations following the ſame progreſſion; but it muſt be admitted, that if the obſerver had to lament this falſe direction of the agents of commerce, the man, a ſtranger to theſe ſerious reflections, found in the aſſemblage of Europeans ſettled at SMYRNA the charms of good company, and the pleaſures which opulence finds means to fix in every country on earth.

A line of conduct more ſerious, but at the ſame time better directed towards a great object of utility, was followed at SMYRNA by the merchants of ſome other nations of EUROPE. What I have ſaid on that ſubject indifferent places of this work, and particularly in Chapter XXXV, is confirmed by the obſervations



of a man of great merit, and who, having visited the LEVANT as a statesman, and lived in TURKEY as ambassador from FRANCE, has been better enabled than any one to collect valuable information respecting our ancient TURKEY trade. What M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER has written on that of SMYRNA is so important, and his authority comes in such a manner to the support of my ideas on this subject, that I can do no better than report the passage in which he speaks of it in his "*VOYAGE PITTORESQUE DE LA GRECE*."

"Were we to judge," says M. DE CHOISEUL, *tom. 1. page 203*, "of the distribution of  
"the trade of SMYRNA, by the number of  
"merchants of each nation, FRANCE would,  
"for a long time past, have appeared much  
"more powerful than she then was in reality,  
"since she had twenty-five houses, while the  
"English had but six, and the Dutch four.  
"She carried on, however, but the third of  
"the trade, and made up, by the number  
"of her agents, for what might be wanting, in other respects, to their existence.  
"Foreigners, and especially the Dutch, come  
"into the LEVANT with considerable capitals,  
"there form substantial establishments, and  
"being

“ being already rich, see, by the credit which  
 “ their opulence insures them, the means of  
 “ enriching themselves also increase in all sorts  
 “ of business: they themselves direct the pro-  
 “ ceedings of their consul, are at his side,  
 “ and not in his suite. The Frenchman,  
 “ on the contrary, a simple broker, does  
 “ business only for the MARSEILLES mer-  
 “ chant, whose manager he is, shares with  
 “ him all the duties of commission, and some-  
 “ times may complain of the consul, who  
 “ thinks that every one ought to obey him  
 “ blindly: aspiring only to the possession of  
 “ a peculium, which may allow him to return  
 “ to his own country, this Frenchman hastens  
 “ the end of his exile, by every means that  
 “ the most constant economy can afford,  
 “ and renounces that kind of consequence  
 “ which is always obtained by the appearance  
 “ of wealth.”

Nothing less is required than the beautiful  
 climate of SMYRNA, its delightful and im-  
 portant situation, the freedom which is there  
 enjoyed, and the opulence of its commerce,  
 to induce men to fix themselves on a soil  
 which is agitated and overthrown by fre-  
 quent shocks. Violent earthquakes are there  
 often felt; the ground opens in several places;  
 noises

noises formed by vast cavities, terrify the inhabitants, while their shaken houses fall and bury them under their ruins. These scenes of disorder and desolation are frequently renewed, and fires, the inevitable consequences of the overthrow of a populous town, likewise add to their horror, and consume, with frightful rapidity, whole quarters, half laid in ruins by terrible commotions.

To these great disasters, the idea of which, to any one who is acquainted with the LEVANT, is inseparable from that of SMYRNA, are also added, every year, the ravages of the plague. The Europeans then condemn themselves to a salutary imprisonment; while, on all sides, men fall struck by this frightful disorder, and their dead bodies heaped up, attest the criminal and stupid want of foresight of the government, still more than the violence of the contagion.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

*Observations on the plague.—Route by land from Foglieri to Smyrna.—Ravages of grasshoppers.—Foglieri.—Island of Mitylene.—Its capital town; its harbours; its advantages. — Musco-nisi Islands. — Island of Lemnos.—Agio-Strati.—Tenedos. — Strait of the Dardanelles.—Imbros.—Samandraki. Island of Taffo.—Its mines; its fertility; its wines; its woods. — La Cavale. — Contessa. — Mount Athos. — Arrival at Salonica.*

IN the preceding chapter, I have spoken of the plague, a destructive and permanent scourge in TURKEY, participating with earthquakes in the ruin and desolation of the flourishing town of SMYRNA. Its disastrous effects, which scarcely fail to be renewed every year, have not always the same intensity, nor the same violence. The year 1778 was one of the most remarkable for its ravages: at CONSTANTINOPLE, there died to the

the number of two thousand people in a day. What frightful rapidity of destruction! And what stupid resignation on the part of men, who, for centuries past, suffer themselves to be mowed down by the scythe of contagion, without seeking the means of preserving themselves from it!

Physic has as yet discovered no certain remedies for the plague, and the recipes which are found in books are by no means effectual. It is difficult and very dangerous to indulge in observations on a disease which is communicated with a frightful promptitude, and every physician has not the courage, or, to speak more correctly, the madness of that Russian surgeon, prisoner at CONSTANTINOPLE with a number of his countrymen, who took it into his head to inoculate these unfortunate beings with the plague, in order to render the contagion less destructive: by this means he killed two hundred of these prisoners; and, fortunately for the rest, the inoculator, after having performed the operation on himself, died of his own treatment. By collecting remarks already somewhat numerous on the subject of this disease, we shall succeed in ascertaining its nature, and shortly in delivering from it the human race. It is



is for the purpose of contributing, as far as lies in my power, to an object so desirable, that I am going to add a few notions to those which I have already mentioned in Chapter XI. relative to the plague, which I have frequently had an opportunity of seeing very near at hand, and to which I have been more than once exposed.

Some French physicians have improperly reproved M. SAMOÏLOWITZ, a celebrated Russian physician, and author of a very good Memoir on the plague, printed in 1783\*, for having advanced that this disease exists neither in the air, nor is communicated by the air, but by contact alone. Notwithstanding all the arguments of these physicians, and the contrary observations of a M. PARIS, which they quote†, the assertion of Doctor SAMOÏLOWITZ is incontestably true. Although a person lives in a place infected with the plague, he will never catch it, unless he communicate immediately with persons who are attacked by it, or if he touch not substances which are infected and calculated to serve it as conductors. Indeed, with-

\* See the *Gazette Salulaire* of the 18th of March, 1784.

† Octavo, Paris, Leclerc, 1783.

out mentioning the opinion generally spread in the LEVANT on this subject, it is sufficient for the Europeans settled in TURKEY, to shut themselves up and insulate themselves in their houses, in order to be preserved from the contagion, even when it makes the greatest ravages in towns which they inhabit, and though they draw, from without, their provisions and their daily food, frequently purchased at the dwelling of pestiferous persons.

And what proves still more that immediate contact can alone communicate the plague, is, that it happens that a portion of clothing may be sufficiently impregnated with pestilential miasmata for transmitting the contagion to those who touch it, while it has no effect on him who wears it.

All animal substances, whether they have preserved their primitive state, or have been fashioned by the hand of men, are vehicles of the plague; cotton, flax, hemp, and the cloths which are manufactured of them, are equally so: paper even has this fatal property; and, happening to be under quarantine at MALTA, I was witness of the alarm which was there spread by a piece of paper which the wind carried over the gates of the Lazaretto, and which had fallen in the midst

of several persons. Eatables in general, and metals, are not conductors of the contagion: one may with impunity receive from the hand of a pestiferous person a piece of money, or any other species of metal, also herbage, fish, bread, &c. It is nevertheless asserted, that bread very hot may communicate the disease, whereas cold bread does not give it.

The actual dispositions of the constitution decide on the more or less facility of catching the plague. Several persons touch with impunity those infected without any precaution; and, after having braved the danger for several years, these same persons find themselves sometimes attacked the first, and sink under the disease.

If there be reason to suspect that, at the moment when a person falls ill, the plague is the cause of his illness, there is, for ascertaining it, a method which is considered as infallible in the LEVANT; this is to make the patient take some brandy, or conserve of roses, which occasions it to shew itself immediately. The same property is attributed to garlic.

It is reckoned certain that the best regimen to be observed, when one is attacked by the plague, is to live only on meat or fish salted.

All

All other food is pernicious, and fruit, of whatever species it may be, is mortal. A man, who had had an opportunity of making a great number of observations, during a long stay at CONSTANTINOPLE, where he was chaplain of the *hospice* of the Franks, had remarked a symptom, according to which he decided immediately whether a pestiferous person was to perish or escape: he was never mistaken in his prognostics. He had discovered, that when the bubo is far from adherent, and flakes on its base, well-founded hopes may be conceived; and that, on the contrary, if the bubo be absolutely fixed and immoveable, there is no hope of avoiding death. This same observer had also remarked, that if a patient, after an access of delirium, suddenly recovered his senses, he seldom got the better.

It is almost always in the groin and arm-pits that the pestilential bubo comes. Frequently several of them make their appearance. Sometimes is seen, independently of the bubo, a boil-like tumour; the complaint is then much more dangerous: but if a person recovers from it, he is in the sequel less exposed to the contagion. Besides the bubo and the boil, some persons have likewise a

fort of furuncle, which is called *phimas*, and which differs from the boil-like tumour by its not becoming black. Those who are attacked by it run a more imminent danger; but if they have the good fortune not to sink under the disease, they have absolutely nothing more to fear from the plague, during the remainder of their life.

Although a person has been attacked by this terrible disorder, he is not, on that account, secure from catching it again. One may be afflicted by it repeatedly; and this observation appears by no means favourable to the project of inoculation which has been brought forward by some persons. I knew a man who had had the plague seven times; but an observation very singular, and never theless certain, is that when a person has been once attacked, and he happens to be again, even a long time after, in a place where it reigns, he feels dull pains, pinchings, shootings, in the place where the bubo was. These symptoms are even a mean of announcing the approaching invasion of the disease. There have been seen people who, being in places where no sign of the plague was perceived, complained of these shooting pains, and, ere



long, symptoms of the contagion made their appearance.

The direction and strength of the winds contribute to increase or diminish the activity of the plague. It is when the north-east wind blows that it exercises the greatest ravages at CONSTANTINOPLE. In this same city, a frightful storm has been known to stop suddenly the effects of the contagion.

This small number of observations, to which I might have added others more known, does not appear to me favourable to the system of some modern men of science who have attributed the plague to insects, as the cause of the itch, and of the other disorders of the skin, has been imagined to be found in little animals of the same class. I do not, however, assert that this opinion, founded on certain affinities, ought to be absolutely rejected; but it deserves to be examined with attention: it would; were it confirmed, put us in the direct road for obtaining the cure of the disorder the most active and the most cruel by which human nature is afflicted.

To the fear of the plague am I indebted for the advantage of having travelled along the north coast of the Gulf of SMYRNA, as I had for the most part followed that which

is opposite to it. After the engagement of the *MIGNONNE* frigate in the harbour of MILO, I no longer quitted that ship, as I have before said, during the course of her cruise in the sea of the LEVANT. The plague had broken out in several places, and every one dreaded to land there. However, the state of war in which we were, required information that we could obtain only from our consuls. In order to reach those agents, in the insulated situation to which Prudence had condemned them, it was necessary to traverse the centre of the contagion. I was charged with this mission, as more familiarized with the Turks and the dangers with which they have suffered themselves to be surrounded, and at the same time as being more habituated to the precautions which dangers of this sort require. I had already been landed at Scio, where the plague reigned, and I thought for a moment that I should be the victim of my good will. In proceeding to the house of our vice-consul, whatever precaution I took to touch no one, a Turkish soldier, who was running very fast, pushed against me at the turning of a street. I own that I could not help feeling some inquietude, which

which I took good care not to communicate, but which was soon dispelled.

The frigate waited for me under sail in the channel of Scio: it was of much importance that she should repair to SMYRNA, but the plague was there exercising its terrible influence with greater malignity than at Scio. D'ENTRECASTEAUX resolved to anchor at *FOGLIERI*, and begged me to go by land to confer with the French consul-general at SMYRNA. My firman smoothened every difficulty. I soon procured horses, and I hastened to proceed to SMYRNA, which was distant twelve leagues: although I had set out rather late, I arrived there before night. Nothing less than the importance of my mission was necessary to determine the consul to admit into his house a man who had just crossed the fields, and the half of a large town, infected by the plague. I had left my horses and their guide without the walls of SMYRNA: I rejoined them the next morning early, and returned with the same diligence to *FOGLIERI*. Almost all the plain which I traversed was in a state of culture; it had been covered by rich crops, but of these there no longer existed any thing but the remains. Innumerable legions of grass-

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hoppers,

hoppers, the formidable agents of famine, had lighted on them; the ears had been cut by their sharp-edged jaws; the straw even, hacked to pieces, announced confusion and complete devastation. The waters of the little river of *SARABAT*, and of some rivulets which discharge themselves into the sea, along this coast, had disappeared under a thick crust of dead bodies of grasshoppers heaped up, and the infection which they spread corrupted the air, and threatened to add fresh cause of mortality to those with which the plague desolated that beautiful country.

On the Cape of *ASIA MINOR*, which forms, with that of *KARABOUROUN* or *BLACK CAPE*, the spacious and deep roadstead, known under the name of the *GULF OF SMYRNA*, two places likewise bear the name of *FOGLIERI*: the one is called *NEW FOGLIERI*; and the other, *OLD FOGLIERI*. This is the ancient country of the Phoceans, a celebrated people of ancient *GREECE*. Some small islands, which lie in front of *NEW FOGLIERI*, afford them and the continent a very good anchorage, fit for the reception of the largest ships.

Thence we proceeded to *MITYLENE*, one of the most considerable islands of that sea, and which is no more than four leagues distant

tant from the continent. The name of METELIN, sometimes given to it at this day, is corrupted from the more ancient one of *MITYLENE*, which succeeded the name of *LESBOS*, under which this island formerly acquired great celebrity. Its domination extended over *TROAS* and *ÆOLIS*. But what did it more honour than its power, was to have been the cradle of illustrious personages, who constituted its glory and that of GREECE. One of the benefactors of human nature, who delivered his country from the yoke of tyranny, *PITTACUS*, of the small number of the sages of GREECE, was born at *LESBOS*. The poet *ALCÆUS* there composed his verses; *PHRYNIS*, the melodious airs, with which he made his lyre resound; *THEOPHRASTUS*, his commentaries; and feeling and love-struck hearts drop a tear to the memory of the beautiful and ingenious *SAPPHO*.

The modern town of *MITYLENE* is built on the ruins of the ancient city of that name, and its environs still afford some very beautiful remains of its magnificence. The harbour is small and bad; but the island has others, the two best of which are Port *SIGRI* and Port *OLIVIER*. The former is at the west extremity of the island; and the latter, which  
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is the more frequented, is formed by a gulf that is behind and at a little distance from the town of MITYLENE. Its entrance is long and narrow; but the anchorage there is good and commodious.

The position of the Island of MITYLENE, in the vicinity of a great extent of the coast of NATOLIA, which it seems to command, placed at an equal distance from the Gulf of SMYRNA and the channel of CONSTANTINOPLE, not far from the principal Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, renders its possession extremely important, as its interior resources render it susceptible of the most flourishing state. But it is in the hands of the Turks: this is announcing sufficiently that the advantages of its situation are lost, and that, from day to day, population, agriculture, and all industry, are diminishing and falling into decay.

In the channel formed by the Island of MITYLENE and the coast, at the entrance of the Gulf of *ADRAMITI*, some small islands, which the Greeks call *MUSCONISI*; and our navigators, *MYSCONISSES*, formerly bore the name of *HECATONES*. They are, as well as the large Island of MITYLENE, very fertile, principally in wines and oil; but this gene-  
nosity

rosity of Nature is there powerfully counteracted by the present rulers.

We set sail, after a very short stay on the coast of MITYLENE; we doubled Cape *BABA*, or *CABA*, formerly *LECTUM PROMONTORIUM*; and as our mission was to cruise in these seas, we kept under easy sail between the Island of *LEMNOS* and that of *TENEDOS*. The former, larger and farther distant from the coast, was consecrated to *VULCAN* in the time of *HOMER*, probably on account of two volcanoes, which were here continually casting forth flames, and which were considered as the forges of the husband of *VENUS*. There no longer remain any vestiges of these volcanoes: however, interior fires are still burning here; for we here meet with a spring of hot water, which has been brought to supply baths, and another of aluminous water. This island is hilly, but extremely fertile; it yields corn, cotton, oil, and silk, with which a few light stuffs are manufactured.

The species of bole which bears the name of Lemnian earth, and to which were attributed imaginary virtues, is still drawn from a hill of the island. To be flourishing, *LEMNOS* wants only to be delivered from its oppressors. Nature has done every thing for it

it, and one laments the state of languor and wretchedness to which its destiny has reduced it. Its inhabitants were formerly much given to navigation, or, to speak more correctly, to the carrying-trade; they are still trading mariners, because this kind of industry escapes more easily the cupidity of tyrants, than affluence produced by agriculture or by a sedentary traffic. I there saw some extremely beautiful women, who were very far from inspiring the same disgust as the men had conceived of their grand-mothers, on account of their bad smell; if, however, this fact, quoted in a book of the wonders of nature\*, have any reality.

All the east coast of LEMNOS is inaccessible on account of a shoal, which extends four leagues into the offing; the west coast affords to ships a few places of shelter against northerly winds. To the north, is a large road; but there are no real harbours except in the south part, where are to be found two, which are at no great distance from each other; Port CADIA, and Port SANT ANTONIO.

To the south of LEMNOS, is a small island of little importance, which the modern Greeks

\* ANTIGONUS, *de Naturæ Mirabilibus*.

call *AGIO-STRATI*; and our navigators, *SAINT ESTRATE*: the ancients called it *HIERA*.

The possession of the Island of *TENEDOS*, which is situated near the mouth of the channel of the *DARDANELLES*, might alone involve the loss of *CONSTANTINOPLE*: from this point would be formed the blockade of that great city, with the more facility, as the channel between the continent and *TENEDOS* is, correctly speaking, only a large roadstead, where ships may lie at anchor, ready to get under sail, and stop those which should attempt to penetrate into the Strait of the *DARDANELLES*. But the Ottoman government, incapable of feeling the importance of this advantageous port, seems to watch it with still greater negligence than other places whose preservation would be less useful. The wines of *TENEDOS* are almost the sole trade of the island: here are made muscadine wines, which are not inferior to those of *SAMOS*.

We stood in and anchored under Cape *GRECO*, at the entrance of the channel of the *DARDANELLES*, opposite to Cape *YENI-HISARI*, beyond which is the plain where *TROY* formerly existed. I shall not speak of this famous strait which makes the separation

between EUROPE and ASIA, nor of the city of CONSTANTINOPLE: the little time that I was able to allot to visiting them, allowed me not to make many remarks, and I prefer saying nothing about them to repeating what has been written.

On leaving the new castles of the DARDANELLES, whose construction, by no means formidable, is due to M. DE TOTTE, the *MIGNONNE* directed her course towards the Island of *TASSO*. We passed near the point of the Island of *IMBROS*, which, as well as *TENEDOS* and *SAMOS*, has retained its ancient name, which navigators have transformed into that of *LEMBRO*. It is from eight to ten leagues in circumference, and contains fertile vallies, and mountains covered with wood.

A league to the north of *IMBROS* is the Island of *SAMANDRAKI*, or *MANDRAKI*, which is but eight leagues in circumference. This is the *SAMOS OF THRACE*, or, in a single word, the *SAMOTHRACE* of the ancients. *PLINY* calls it *SAMOTHRACIA LIBRA*; but this liberty has vanished with the greater part of the advantages which it holds from nature, and which the industry of its ancient inhabitants knew, or might have known, how to turn to account.



Towards the west extremity of MACEDONIA, and two leagues from the continent, the Island of *TASSO*, which the French call *LE TASSE*, shews at a distance its high mountains covered with forests. The channel, which separates that island from the main land, is also divided by a sterile islet called *LITTLE TASSO*, and in Greek *TASSO-POULO*, the vestige of an ancient continuity of lands, at present separated. A spacious road, where the ground is good for holding, lies between the two islands. Here we anchored.

*TASSO* is the most northern of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; it was one of the most famous on account of its rich gold mines: HERODOTUS speaks of them, and they were under the direction of THUCYDIDES. No traces are now to be seen of that opulence of nature; not that it is exhausted, but it is alike buried by ignorance, fear, and tyranny. These mines procured the island the Greek name *CHRYSE*, which signifies of *gold*, or *gilt*: its riches had become proverbial, and the expression was a *thasos of wealth*. Neither are here now to be found opals, amethysts, and the other precious stones, which, with the gold mines, composed its natural treasures; but here is  
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met with that beautiful marble, held in such estimation by the Romans, whose whiteness vies with snow, and the fineness of whose grain with that of Parian marble. The greater part of the mountains are still formed of this marble, which shews itself even on their surface; and it is worthy of remark, that the two Islands of GREECE which contain the most valuable marbles, were inhabited by the same people: it was the inhabitants of PAROS who peopled the Island of TASSO, and there built the town of THASOS, which was its capital, and the vestiges of which are still to be seen.

The island is near thirty leagues in circumference: it produces a great deal of corn, oil, wax, &c. but its fertility, extolled by the ancients, is no longer turned to account, for want of encouragement and culture. Its wines, formerly very famous even in the time of the Lower Empire, since JOHN CHRYSOSTOM exclaimed against the excesses to which they gave rise at CONSTANTINOPLE; its wines, I say, no longer have the excellent qualities which caused them to be in request at a high price. Its population has experienced the same fate as the

the productions of its soil; it is considerably diminished.

Tasso has still remaining a sort of wealth very important to a trading and maritime nation: this is capital wood for ship-building. The finest trees grow on the summit and declivity of the mountains; but the inconsiderate manner of felling them will soon have exhausted these resources of vegetation, more valuable than the mines of gold.

Opposite to the northern point of the Island of Tasso, Cape *ASPEROSA* forms a bight, in which is, to the west, *LA CAVALE*, a small town built on a rock that projects into the sea, and which has some resemblance to a horse. This resemblance has procured it the name which it bears; at least, this is an etymology more simple than that which derives its modern name from *BUCEPHALA*, which the same place formerly bore, on account of the town that *ALEXANDER* caused to be built there in honour of *BUCEPHALUS*, the conqueror's famous steed.

*LA CAVALE* was for a long time in possession of the Genoese and Venetians; it was become of late years a very active point of the *LEVANT* trade: its harbour, although not very safe, was frequented by ships which

came to load there with corn, tobacco, and other commodities.

The Island of TASSO is situated at the entrance of a rather extensive gulf, which is called the *GULF OF CONTESSA*, because a town of that name was built at the head of it. Our navigators also call this bight *GOLFE DE RHONDINE*, from the corrupted name of the ancient town of *RHEDINE*; but the Greeks designate it under the name of *ORFANO*: this is the *SINUS STRYMONICUS* of the ancients.

From TASSO we made sail towards *MONTE SANCTO*, at the foot of which we passed. Under this name, as well as under that of *AGIOSOROS*, which the Greeks give to this mountain, and which has the same signification, we have some difficulty to recognise the famous mountain whose summit is lost in the clouds, and which, if we must believe the ancients, projects its shade as far as the Island of *MITYLENE*, and, according to *BE' LON*, an eye-witness, only as far as the harbour of the Isle of *LEMNOS*, that is, to the distance of eight leagues\*. Mount *ATHOS*, forming an advanced promontory of

\* *Observations, &c.*

MACEDONIA, which XERXES, king of PERSIA, separated from the continent by a long strait, and which DINOCRATES, the architect of ALEXANDRIA of EGYPT, wished to consecrate to the perpetuating of the memory of ALEXANDER, by making of this mountain an enormous statue, whose smallest features would have been several toises in length, is a place revered by the modern Greeks. Millions of monks, an ignorant and fanatic race, occupy it at present: there are few of them who can read, although they have a tolerably good number of Greek books, among which it would be no easy matter to find some that might deserve to be opened; they consist of works of theology and controversy.

Continuing to sail towards the west, we crossed the entrance of the gulf which also bears the name of *MONTESANCTO*, and which the ancients called *SINUS SINGITICUS*. We doubled Cape *DREPANO*, formerly *DERIS PROMONTORIUM*, forming with Cape *PAILOURI*, *CANASTRACUM PROMONTORIUM* of the ancients, another gulf, which had formerly the name of *TORONAIICUS SINUS*, and which is at present called the Gulf of CAS-



SANDRA, on account of a small island which is at its extremity, and which is thus designated. We then entered the deep Gulf of SALONICA, and cast anchor in the harbour of that great city.

## CHAPTER XXXIX.

*Town of Salonica.—Terrible fire of which the author was witness.—Trade of Salonica.—Disorders which are there experienced.—Plains of the environs of Salonica.—Excursion to Mount Olympus.—The author transforms himself into a physician.—Companion in his journey.—He crosses the gulf.—He lands, or rather is almost cast away, on the west coast of the gulf.—Vroumeri.—Construction of the rural habitations.—Dogs which are the formidable keepers of them.—Papagovernor.—Patients to whom medical treatment was necessary.—Fields of the environs of Vroumeri.—Storks.—Aga of Katherinn.—Skala—Albanian soldiers by whom the Author was accompanied.—Trees of the forests of Olympus.—Troop of Albanian robbers.—Portrait of their chief.—Monastery of St. Dennis.—Efforts of the author for reaching the summit of the mountain.—Snow which is there found.—Extent of the prospect.—Secret for curing the fever. Animals of Olympus.—Return to Salonica.*

THE latitude of the town of SALONICA is  $40^{\circ} 41' 10''$ , and its longitude  $20^{\circ} 48'$  from

the meridian of PARIS. It is built almost at the head, and on the east coast of a gulf that bears its name, the entrance of which is nine leagues in width, and the bight runs inland upwards of twenty leagues. The road, which begins at two capes, called *GREAT* and *LITTLE BOURNOU*, and terminates at a shoal which is situated at the very head of the gulf, affords good anchorages to ships of every size, and a safe retreat to fleets.

Its name has not changed for ages; it is only abridged, and is not difficult to be recognised, in the present town of SALONICA or SALONIKI, the ancient and celebrated THES-SALONICA, founded, it is said, by the sister of ALEXANDER, on the site of a more ancient city, which was called *THERMA*. It is also the capital of MACEDONIA, and one of the largest and most populous towns of the Turkish empire. Here are still to be seen pieces of ancient monuments; and every where fragments of edifices, profaned by their mixture with common materials in modern buildings. The church of ST. SOPHIA, constructed by JUSTINIAN on the model of that of CONSTANTINOPLE, is converted into a mosque, like some other churches  
of

of the Lower Empire. Here is also a castle of the seven towers, as in the capital.

The aspect of SALONICA, from the harbour, announces an agreeable enclosure; but when you enter it, you presently relinquish the good opinion which you had conceived of it: streets narrow and ill paved, as well as crooked, houses slovenly on the outside, and, in the inside, worse laid out, together with a miserable population, induce the wish of seeing it only at a distance. It is, nevertheless, one of the finest towns of TURKEY, and one of the most important, from its position and the richness of its trade. It is also the seat of one of the first governments of the empire.

Very shortly after our arrival, we were witnesses of a fire which had like to have reduced the town to ashes. The fire broke out during the night in a quarter where the Jews, crowded together, live in the most disgusting filthiness, and eaten up by disorders engendered by corruption. The construction of their houses, almost all of wood, the want of police, and assistance necessary for stopping the progress of the flames, allowed them to display a terrible activity, and in a few moments the whole quarter was burnt. The light of this furious conflagration spread

itself over the sea; and although the *MIGNONNE* was anchored at a somewhat great distance from the coast, on board her we saw clear enough to read on deck. The wind brought on the water a prodigious quantity of sparks, which fell sufficiently near the ship to occasion uneasiness, and cause every preparation to be made for getting under sail. Furniture, bales, already reached by the fire, were conveyed, in hopes of saving them, to the quarters the most distant from it, and there became the focus of fresh blazes, which were not extinguished without difficulty. But it was not possible to stop the ravages of the fire in the quarter of the Jews; four or five hundred houses were the prey of the flames, and to the frightful spectacle of their combustion, were added the cries which despair forced from its victims, the confused clamour of a militia, better calculated for increasing disorder than diminishing it, and the grave and mournful sound of a few pieces of cannon, fired from time to time as signals of alarm—every thing concurred to make this night, a night of fright and horror.

Considered as a fortified town, SALONICA is of no importance; an enclosure of ramparts, without ditches and ill kept, still worse defended



defended by a very small number of bad pieces of artillery, render it susceptible of only a feeble resistance; and the undisciplined troops which form its garrison, are incapable of making amends, by their courage and skill in tactics, for this want of fortifications. But if this city, as a strong hold, is not at all interesting, yet it is extremely so from the trade of which it is the centre, and which, under another government, would become still more flourishing.

Situated in one of the finest countries of TURKEY in EUROPE, it is the emporium of a very considerable commerce. Here is shipped a great deal of cotton, gathered chiefly in the rich and extensive plains by which the town of *SERES*, the ancient *SERRÆ*, is surrounded, and its brilliant culture gives to the market of this city an extraordinary briskness. Here too, vessels take in a great quantity of highly-esteemed tobacco, grain gathered in fields of admirable fecundity, very beautiful wool, silk, and the floss that comes from it, together with wax, honey, &c. &c. What a fruitful source of prosperity! What a vast field of industry! The one requires only to be freed from the obstacles which stop its course,

course, and the other claims a population less scanty and less enslaved.

SALONICA is not always an abode so healthy as we should have reason to expect, from the beautiful sky under which that town is situated, and from its charming position. The plague, the formidable offspring of the improvidence of the Turks, and which neither depends on the temperature nor on the nature of the atmosphere, frequently makes cruel attacks on its population. But the accidental insalubrity of the air occasions fevers, which come in autumn to second the plague in its terrible ravages, and this insalubrity is also the work of an administration which, not confining itself to afford protection, has contrived to vie with the most violent disorders in the frightful prerogative of destroying mankind. Stagnant waters have been accumulated between the town and the little river *VERDARI*, which the Turks call *VERDAC*, and which discharges itself into the head of the gulf: from these marshes, the formation of which it would have been easy to prevent, and which might as easily be drained, emanate numerous germs of corruption to the atmosphere of SALONICA, and of death to its inhabitants.

I employed

I employed the time of our stay in frequent excursions to the plains which extend to the north of SALONICA, and I preferred these walks in the domain of Nature, to the monotony of a town, which, like all the towns of TURKEY, is, truly speaking, only the domain of disorder, tumult, and *ennui*. Every morning the frigate's boat landed me at the head of the gulf, and I passed days in visiting the beautiful plain which extends as far as SERES. Shooting, especially at birds, among which pheasants are not scarce, rendered my walks very agreeable; they were a necessary distraction to the chagrin which I felt in crossing districts, destined by nature for the most brilliant fertility, and nevertheless uncultivated or neglected; afflicting symptoms of discouragement and despotism. I prolonged my walks till it was dark, but the necessity of returning on board every evening, prevented me from extending them as far as I could have wished.

Our stay soon became stationary. Various advices induced D'ENTRECASTEAUX to remain yet some time in the harbour of SALONICA; I resolved, in my turn, to avail myself of this interval, in order to make a journey into ancient MACEDONIA. Mount  
OLYMPUS,

OLYMPUS, on the top of which the warm imagination of the Greeks had fixed the abode of the gods, presented to our view, on the opposite side of the gulf, its lofty and rounded summit. The wish of ascending that celebrated mountain, took possession of my mind, and I hastened to carry my project into execution, but when I communicated it to the French merchants and consul settled at SALONICA, with a view of obtaining some information, they concurred in dissuading me from it. The Albanians, who have inherited the bravery of the Macedonians, but who tarnish it by the exercise of terrible robberies, had revolted; they no longer acknowledged the authority of the Grand Signior, nor consequently that of the pacha of CONSTANTINOPLE, whom they considered as an odious enemy, because he had recently marched against them with a part of his forces, and had in vain attempted to reduce them. The hatred of these people against the Turks of SALONICA extended to the very inhabitants of the same city; the Franks shared of this enmity; in short, to expose myself in countries inhabited by hordes of courageous and cruel people, united under the authority of princes, real chiefs of robbers,

bers, was to give myself up to a certain death. This was all the information that I could collect, and certainly it was not of a nature to be very useful to me. The marks of interest which I received on this occasion from my countrymen, penetrated me with gratitude; I thanked them, but at the same time I begged them not to take it amiss, if, however well founded their subjects of fear might seem, I should not the less persist in my resolution.

It was in vain to endeavour to put myself into a state of defence against people disciplined and exercised in the use of arms; a fowling piece was the only weapon that I would take; but I thought of covering myself with a shield, which had been of great service to me when I was travelling in the midst of the barbarous inhabitants of EGYPT. Being no longer able, any more than I was in that country, to appear in safety as a military man, in the excursion which I was going to undertake, I resolved to appear there as a physician. It is well known how much the art of ascertaining and curing the disorders of mankind is held in veneration among Orientals, and they grant us a confidence which they refuse to the empirics of their own country,



country, whether they have a higher opinion of our knowledge, or partake with nations more enlightened, the rage of giving the preference to every thing that comes from afar: accordingly the first comer may call himself a physician in those countries, and attract the crowd. But the practice of physic by no means resembles that which is exercised among us; diet, regimen, ptisans, and other remedies which we abuse, must be struck out of the dispensary of the Orientals; our perfect resignation is unknown to them; they wish for active remedies and a speedy cure, or, at least, palliatives from which they may feel relief. I shall not enlarge more on the subject of this singular mode of treatment of the Orientals, because I have spoken of it very minutely in my TRAVELS IN UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT.

The preparatives of a journey which was to last but a few days, were not long, and I was soon ready to set out. M. DE T——, an officer in the regiment of P——, and commandant of the detachment of that corps serving on board of the *MIGNONNE*, wished to accompany me. I repeated to him all that had been told me at SALONICA respecting the inconveniences and dangers of this journey,

journey, and I apprized him that my manner of travelling was neither pleasant nor convenient, and that he must expect some difficulties, and, perhaps, a few untoward adventures. M. DE T—— had a cultivated understanding and a taste for knowledge; to these he joined a resolute mind; all that I could say did not affect him; he promised me not to deviate from what I should have to advise him in a country, whose manners and customs were entirely unknown to him: however, full of confidence in my habit of travelling, he had, he said, no uneasiness, as to the dangers which had been pointed out to us. We therefore took leave of D'ENTRE-CASTEAUX, who loaded us with the wishes of frank and generous friendship, which M. DE T—— shared with me, and we landed from the frigate on the 10th of July, 1780, at eight o'clock in the morning.

This was the hour of the appointment on which we had agreed for our departure from SALONICA, with some Greeks of that town, owners of a small boat, and with whom we had made a bargain for taking us to the west coast of the gulf. We waited a long time on the beach, but no mariner appeared. It was a great festival among the Greeks, and

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they did not content themselves with celebrating it at church; feasting was also part of the solemnity, and our boatmen, of a poor class, were celebrating the saint at a tavern. We looked for them a long time in quarters inhabited by seafaring people; at last we were told where they were, and we found them at table, not thinking at all of the excursion that we were to make. They prevailed on us to return to the beach, whither they would follow us immediately: we remained there the whole day without seeing them, and it was not till about eight o'clock in the evening that we were able to find them again; we forced them to come down to their boat, but they were in such a state of ebriety that they could scarcely stand. After having spent the day in ennui and impatience, we concluded by finding ourselves at night at the mercy of people who, in the situation they were in, appeared to me more dangerous than the Albanians. However we made them embark, at the risk of being all drowned. I had no uneasiness as to our passage across the gulf; but the landing on the west coast, which I knew to be obstructed by shoals, presented to me difficulties, which did not appear to me easy to be avoided during the night; besides

besides where were we to land on a coast with which I was not at all acquainted? I took good care not to communicate these reflections to my companion; he entered the boat with much confidence, and we set sail.

We were six in all; the two Greeks belonging to the boat, M. DE T—— had taken with him the drummer of his company, and I my young Greek, who had attended me from CANEA. No sooner was the sail spread than the boatman, charged with the management of it, dropped asleep, and fell sprawling at the bottom of the boat; he who steered had a great inclination to do the same, but I kept him awake as well as it was in my power; not that I placed much confidence in him, but I wished to know the direction that he would take, in order that I might be guided for making the land. When I had found that we were going nearly north-east, I no longer attached the same importance to tormenting the skipper for the purpose of preventing him from sleeping, if, however, one could consider as awake, a man staggering drunk. He soon availed himself of the moments of quiet which I left him, and fell asleep; I pushed him, he rolled to the bottom of the boat, and I laid hold of the til-

ler. There was a swell on the water; M. DE T——, little accustomed to its agitation in a boat so small as ours, was sick, and lying at his length, wrapped up in his cloak: my young Greek was lying beside him, sicker still, so that the bottom of the boat was covered by four persons, whom different causes rendered incapable of movement. I remained alone with the drummer.

Favoured by a good wind, our voyage was fortunate; but, on approaching the coast, my embarrassment became extreme; I heard the agitated waves breaking with noise on the beach; and, in the dark, I did not perceive the land. We took in the sail, in order that we might not be dashed to pieces, and I induced the drummer to take an oar and row as well as he could. Presently he called out to me that he touched ground; I ran forward, and having myself taken the oar, I sounded to know what was the nature of the bottom; I found it of fine sand: for fear of meeting with harder substances, which would have stove the boat, I resolved to run her on shore. I apprized M. DE T—— of my intention, at the same time desiring him to hold himself in readiness to walk through the shallow water in order



order to reach the land. At the moment when we struck the ground a wave came into the boat, and inundated our two drunkards, who thought themselves lost; we left them, and we again made a rather long trip, having the water sometimes up to our middle, before we found ourselves on dry land.

The day did not yet appear; nothing around us announced the vicinity of habitations, and we resolved to wait on the beach till we should direct our steps with certainty towards some village. But we did not remain motionless, and we endeavoured to warm ourselves by continual exercise. Presently the watchful Aurora covered with her gold and purple cloak the arc of the horizon, which, on the east, separates light from darkness; the luminary of the day was not long in appearing, and with it, the beautiful country which we had before us. Looking at each other, we could not refrain from bursts of laughter, on seeing the pretty pickle in which we were. Our clothes, which we had not chosen of the best, were, for the greater part, soaked with sea-water and clinging to us; and the cold, by which we were penetrated, gave to our countenances a painful look, which was perfectly in unison with our plight.

It was impossible to appear to greater disadvantage, and we were really very ill-looking physicians. Our mariners had contrived to drag their boat, half-swamped, into a little creek: sleep, and still more the sea, by which they had been struck, had dissipated their ebriety; they begged us to forgive them for what had happened, and they ceased not to congratulate us on having extricated ourselves so well. We left them and proceeded towards a village, built a good half league from the sea-side. It is called *VROUMERI*; its situation is agreeable, in a fertile plain, and it is well built.

Different learned societies have several times proposed prizes, which were to be adjudged to the plan of construction the most suitable for rural habitations, the assemblage, or rather the huddling together of which, in the greater part of the villages of our countries, and particularly in those of the north-east parts of FRANCE, besides all kinds of inconveniences which are there accumulated, leaves an open range to the ravages of fire, and becomes the abode of filthiness and disorders. The question cannot be better solved than in the part of MACEDONIA which I visited. Independently of the good construction of the houses, each of those which

which form a village is insulated, and separated by a large space, from those that stand nearest. An enclosure, more or less spacious, and formed by palifades or quick-set hedges, surrounds it; this ground is almost always cultivated as a fruit or kitchen garden, a sort of culture which is not to the taste of the inhabitants of our country-places, and which we cannot too much engage them to adopt as an alimentary resource that would contribute to maintain them in health.

The aspect of the villages of MACEDONIA or ALBANIA is very agreeable. The trees which grow there on all sides, present, at a distance, the image of a large garden, and the houses which appear through vistas, give an idea of buildings for ornament or pleasure, rather than that of the dwellings of villagers. The air circulates freely between them, and the summer heats are tempered by the coolness of the orchards by which they are shaded. The people who inhabit them announce, by their vigour and robust constitution, what numerous advantages attend this method of building villages, and how much it were to be wished that it was introduced in our country-places. This is a favour which they claim, and the execution of which pre-

sents not so many difficulties as might be imagined at first sight\*; it is worthy of the attention of a repairing government, which is bringing back on the soil of FRANCE all sorts of blessings, with a rapidity, almost equal to that of the frightful overflow of ills by which she was not long since inundated and almost swallowed up.

Every house is intrusted to the care of several dogs, and they acquit themselves wonderfully well of this employment. They rove night and day round their dwelling; strangers, who might go out alone, during the night, would infallibly be devoured by them. During the day, they content themselves with barking and following passengers very closely, to some distance from the house where they are fed, and they are speedily replaced by others; so that in walking in the streets, or, to express myself with greater precision, in the alleys of the villages, you have continually round you five or six of these great dogs, whose anger inspires a degree of fear. And indeed it is dangerous to appear there without being accompanied by some one

\* I propose to present my views on this subject in a particular memoir.

belonging to the place; not that his presence hinders the dogs from running out at passengers; but, at least, he can keep them off with impunity, when they approach a little too near, and it is for this reason that no inhabitant goes out without being armed with a great stick.

The dogs of ALBANIA formed a distinguished race among the ancients; they have not degenerated, but are still very handsome and of a large size; we may add that they are very mischievous, and this is an affinity which they have to the men who breed them. I found, in fact, in the inhabitants of VROUMERI, though all Greeks, a rude, stern, and barbarous look, which I had not yet remarked in the different tribes of the same nation that I had visited. An old papas was the chief of the village; he was a malicious and treacherous man, and I thought that we should not get out of his hands.

On our arrival we waited on this priest-governor; I told him that we were physicians of high reputation, and that we proposed to go and gather plants of great virtue which grew on Mount OLYMPUS; I begged him, at the same time, to procure us the means of repairing to that mountain; he promised us



every thing, but performed nothing ; he every moment threw fresh difficulties in my way ; and, as he had seen that I had removed a few by offering him money, he imagined that for every embarrassinent, real or imaginary, which he might present, I should still continue to give him some. We were obliged to spend the whole day at VROUMERI, but we did not there remain idle. Patients came to consult us, and we had work enough to answer them and point out to them remedies. The first patient that we saw was a woman upwards of eighty, who for ten years past had had the palsy in all her limbs ; the papas, to whom she was related, insisted that we should cure her.---“ A pretty beginning,” said M. DE T—— to me, “ if we have to treat two or “ three patients so inveterate and so incur- “ able, our medical reputation will go to “ wreck.”—“ Take good care,” answered I, “ not to betray the slightest embarrassment, “ or we shall be ruined ; nothing must ap- “ pear impossible to us, nor even difficult, “ and, by your leave, I shall represent this “ old woman’s disorder as a trifle, which can- “ not resist our skill.” In fact, after having pretended to examine the patient with much attention, I prescribed and gave remedies which,

which, I said, were speedily to effect a cure; I left, in reality, only a chimerical hope, but the sentiment of which mitigated, at least for a few days, the fate of this unfortunate woman.

On that day I also let blood several times; M. DE T—— held the pallet, and frequently, on standing opposite to each other, we were ready to depart from the gravity which we strove to keep, and which was always ready to escape us. My companion could not get the better of his astonishment at seeing me operate, answer, prescribe as a real physician, and as if I had never followed any other profession. We were treated with the highest degree of consideration, and we passed the day and night very quietly in a place where, but for the apparent, yet very disinterested services which we rendered, we might have been molested. Early the next morning I renewed my entreaties to the papas, in order to have guides. I had acquired sufficient influence over his mind and over that of his countrymen, to speak with firmness; I threatened to complain to the aga, and he at length yielded to my solicitations.

We were travelling in one of the most beautiful countries in the world, where vegetation  
is

is brilliant and culture active; useful trees there increase rural riches, cover the soil with the coolness of their shade, and serve as an asylum to birds of every species, the ordinary companions of fertility. We there remarked particularly many turtles, jays, and magpies. Storks are common in all this country, especially in the environs of SALONICA, and I found, in a nest, young ones of that species, ready to take wing, at the end of the month of June. These birds are to the Turks, and to all the Orientals, sacred creatures; the houses on which they build their nests are considered as blessed, and secure from all accident. It is, no doubt, a very fortunate, and at the same time an uncommon circumstance, when superstitious ideas turn to the account of the general good; and this sort of veneration for storks tends to the preservation of animals, valuable on account of the appetite which leads them to destroy such as are noxious: thus it is that the ancient Egyptians had succeeded in rendering their country habitable and prosperous, by deifying animals from which an agricultural people may derive the greatest advantages. To kill storks would be a crime in the EAST; accordingly they are often seen walking in troops in

in the midst of fields sown and crops, with as much tranquillity as if they had been brought up in a state of domesticity.

After having, during the morning of the 11th, walked during a violent heat, we arrived, towards noon, at a large village called *KATHERINN*, the residence of an Albanian Prince, to whom the Greek merchant of *SALONICA* had given me a letter of recommendation. This Prince, who was named *HALIL-AGA*, had just raised the standard of revolt; he was much taken up with his warlike preparatives; mistrustful, besides, of the snares which the Ottoman court is in the habit of laying for those whom it wishes to destroy, measures of meanness and symptoms of the weakness of the government, he admitted no one. We were not able to see him; but he excused himself in a very polite manner; and when he was apprized of the subject of our journey, he sent us two of his soldiers to accompany us to *OLYMPUS*. We immediately set out, and arrived about the middle of the night at a village situated on the declivity of the mountain, and which the Greeks call *SKALA*, scale, because one is already at a tolerable height when one arrives there,

there, and because the acclivity, gentle till then, becomes, above, rugged and steep.

We waited till the day appeared in order to present ourselves at the Greek convent of *SKALA*: the monks there gave us a good reception; a bishop happened to be there on his tour. He was better informed than the bishops of the islands and of the continent of *ASIA* are in general. The land of *MACEDONIA* or *ALBANIA* is connected with that where light and knowledge are most diffused, and this point of contact is sufficient, if not to dispel the cloud of ignorance which still covers that country, at least to diminish its thickness. This bishop, whose person was respectable and whose disposition was frank and polite, understood Latin; this was for us a more direct mean of communication.

He related to us how many extortions the monasteries of these countries had to suffer from the Albanians, different parties of whom frequently came to plunder them or lay them under contribution. He recollected the two soldiers who accompanied us, to be of the number of those who, not long since, had committed robberies at the convent of *SKALA*: he represented them to us as two of the most



most determined thieves of the country, and we had already seen enough of them to discover that the good bishop did not deceive us; not that they had endeavoured to steal any thing from us, or to lead us into any ambuscade; but they really had the look of notorious scoundrels, and their discourse perfectly corresponded with the sinister features of their countenance. When we had quitted the plain, in order to begin to ascend OLYMPUS, and had reached the forests which cover it almost entirely, our guides began to relate to us mutually their robbing exploits, of which the woods that we were crossing had been the theatre. — “There,” said the one, “I assisted in murdering and plundering six travellers.” — “At the foot of that tree,” resumed the other, “I killed with a musket-shot a Greek trader, who was carrying money to the convent of SKALA.” — “Do you remember,” rejoined the first, “those Turks whom we cut in pieces with our sabres? We are not far from the place where we fell in with them.”

The conversation of our worthy guides continued nearly in the same style, during the whole time that our journey lasted, till we reached SKALA. The darkness of the night,

night, and the mournful silence which there  
 reigned, gave to their discourse an impression  
 of terror with which it was difficult not to be  
 affected. I lost no time in dispelling the  
 alarms of M. DE T....., who could not help  
 feeling some uneasiness—"The existence of  
 " these two monsters," said I to him, "is  
 " doubtless a misfortune to human nature,  
 " but it is no less fortunate for us that they  
 " are robbers well known; we have nothing  
 " to fear from them. The consideration  
 " which, as robbers, their crimes have ac-  
 " quired them with their fellows, secures us  
 " from other attempts, and the aga well  
 " knew that, by such a choice, he contri-  
 " buted powerfully to our safety. On the  
 " other hand, we have not more to dread on  
 " their part; you have taken notice of the  
 " respect which they shew us; they will  
 " continue it; we are under their protection;  
 " this is a sacred title in the eyes of almost  
 " all the nations of the EAST. The Bedouin  
 " who receives a stranger into his tent, be-  
 " comes his friend and his brother; and  
 " had he met with him on the sandy plains,  
 " which he has made his burning domain,  
 " he would have stripped without pity the  
 " very man towards whom he exercises the  
 " virtues

“ virtues of hospitality, which, through a  
“ singular mixture of good and bad quali-  
“ ties, he knows how to blend with vices  
“ the most pernicious to all human society.  
“ The Albanian, more warlike, but also more  
“ ferocious than the Bedouin, has not the  
“ same social virtues; but he has enough of  
“ the general manners of these countries,  
“ to respect what he is charged to protect;  
“ and I am certain that we shall have every  
“ reason to be satisfied with those who are  
“ become the companions of our journey.”

A magnificent prospect is enjoyed from the convent of SKALA: on one side, the sea, the neighbouring coasts of Mount ATHOS, the numerous islands which render it very diversified; on the other, it extends over the beautiful plains of MACEDONIA, where PHILIP and ALEXANDER reigned, now given up to the barbarism of ignorance, and oppressed by the disorders of robbery. But Nature who ceases not to embellish them with her gifts, seems also to invite thither incessantly the favours of enlightened civilization.

The forests, by which the monastery of SKALA is surrounded, are composed of pines, firs, oaks, elms, beeches, hollies, chestnut-trees, &c. and inhabited by wild boars, stags,

roe-bucks, bears, and birds of different species. Worm-wood is there common; the Greeks make a great use of it for curing fever and strengthening the stomach, as well as germander\*, which they call *kamedron*. After having purged the patient, the physicians of that country make him take three times a day, morning, noon, and night, an infusion of two drachms of germander leaves. Here is also found a multitude of aromatic or useful plants, an inquiry into which might for a long time exercise the zeal of a botanist.

While we were traversing these forests, in the course of the day of the 12th, we heard ourselves called repeatedly. It was our guides who were looking for us to inform us that a numerous body of Albanians had just arrived, and established themselves in the monastery. When we had joined them, they apprized us that these men were robbers by profession, much dreaded in the country. They appeared to us greatly embarrassed as to the resolution which we were to take: to fly had at first appeared to them the most prudent course; but the Albanians knew of our arrival, which might have partly occasioned their sudden

\* *Teucrium flavum*. LINN.

visit, and they would not fail to set out in pursuit of us; then we should all have been lost.

On the other hand, they did not see less inconvenience in shewing us to people who were reckoned determined robbers, in whose eyes nothing was sacred: they, moreover, assured us that we ought entirely to rely on them, whatever might be our determination. The inquietude of our two soldiers was sincere, and they gave us on this occasion, as well as during the continuance of our journey, unequivocal proofs of interest and attachment, which scarcely left our reflections the power of representing to our mind that they themselves were very wicked men. I did not hesitate as to the course that we had to take, and we presented ourselves to the chief of the robbers. Never did man, by the whole of his exterior announce better his odious profession. A stature almost colossal, a corpulence which announced extraordinary strength, a broad face burnt by the sun, large eyes shaded by thick and long eyebrows blacker than jet, a stern and gloomy look, all the features and the countenance of hard heartedness were displayed on the whole person of this chief of robbers, who was re-



spectfully called *aga*. He was seated on a sort of sofa, placed in the cool air in a gallery of the convent; and surrounded by several of his officers: his long musket, with a thin and flat butt like all those of ALBANIA, was standing at his side; a capital pair of pistols was fastened to his waist, and a thick chain of massy silver, strengthened by several plates of the same metal, supported a large scymitar. I approached and repeated to him what I had said to the papas of *VROUMERI*: that we were foreign physicians, gathering wonderful plants which the soil of OLYMPUS produced, and of which we composed remedies no less wonderful. I added that having frequently heard of his power, we considered ourselves very happy in having an opportunity of offering our services to so great a man. Adulation is the snare in which fools suffer themselves to be caught the most easily; there are even people of understanding who resist not this dangerous bait. I remarked a shade less harsh on the countenance of the *aga*, and drew thence the most favourable omen. This man had long been troubled with an ulcer in his leg, which incommoded him greatly; he asked me if I could cure him. I promised him the most complete cure in

in less than a fortnight, and gave him a small bottle of GOULARD's lotion, with which I had provided myself.

From that moment I was invested with the highest favour, and might have played with success the part of a protector, which suits the taste of so many people. I passed the evening with the aga: he would no longer allow me to quit him, and we smoked and supped together. But the rumour of the arrival of celebrated physicians had spread among the troop of Albanians, who had taken up their quarters in a small insulated building, while the chiefs had chosen the handsomest quarter of the monastery. Each of them wished to consult, and receive advice and remedies. They dispatched some of the gang as deputies to their aga, in order to prevail on him to send us to the place where they had assembled. It was agreed that M. DE T....., who passed for my assistant, should repair thither with my little Greek, to serve him as an interpreter. I could not help laughing at the rude trial to which necessity subjected my fellow-traveller, and which did not appear to him pleasant. I gave him hastily a few instructions, and he set out; but he acquitted himself so ill in this visit, and

betrayed such embarrassment, that the Albanians, dissatisfied, dismissed him very abruptly. In order to prevent the fatal consequences that might ensue from the ill-humour of these barbarians, I hastened to repair to the midst of the gang, and, indeed, it did not appear astonishing that M. DE T..... had been disconcerted. Nevertheless, they found in me great skill in physic, and I came away at the same time leaving them the highest opinion of my talents. The night passed in the greatest tranquillity; and, far from having had subjects of complaint against this horde of robbers, we prevented the Greek monks from being too ill-used by them.

Very early the next morning we all quitted the convent of SKALA; the Albanians to gain the plain, and we to continue to ascend OLYMPUS. We stopped at another monastery three leagues from the former; it bears the name of ST. DENNIS, to whom it is consecrated. The mountain is there divided into several steep points, and the building is surrounded by those towering pinnacles, almost entirely composed of rocks. The monks shewed us a grotto, in which is a small chapel that they affirm to have been built by ST. DENNIS himself; they also shewed

us a hut which served him as a retreat, and at the extremity of the grotto a spring which issues in a torrent from the rock, and which the saint forced to appear, not by a stroke of a wand like MOSES, but by striking the rock with his cap.

The small church of this convent is tolerably handsome; a large beautiful lustre of bronze, made in GERMANY, is suspended to the roof. A small library of Greek and Latin books printed in the same country, and well chosen, occupies a chamber of the monastery; but their binding will long be preserved in good condition, for no one touches them. Many other articles brought from neighbouring civilized countries, are to be found at ST. DENNIS (in Greek, *AGIOS DIONYSIOS.*) A large clock of a very common sort is here the particular admiration of all these districts.

Above this insulated convent, which is situated in a very wild place, there are no more habitations on OLYMPUS. We set out on the 14th, in order to endeavour to climb up to the summit. We soon met with large heaps of snow. Our guides would not fatigue themselves to no purpose in following us farther, they waited, with the young Greek,

at the foot of these frozen masses of snow, where they kindled a large fire, the cold being very sharp at this height. We clambered as well as we could, the greatest part of the day, clinging to the branches of the shrubs which became scarcer in proportion as we got higher, and to the projections of the rocks, which, from the effect of an eternal frost, were frequently detached and remained in our hand. As long as we had trees and shrubs to sustain us, we were able to ascend; but benumbed vegetation no longer produces any at some distance from the summit of the mountain; this summit is naked and presents only a cap of snow and ice, on which it is impossible to sustain one's self and walk. It is not astonishing that the Greeks have placed the abode of the gods on an eminence which mortals cannot reach.

Thus it is at least that we saw the high, vast, and luminous OLYMPUS, as it was called by the ancients. It was the middle of July: the heat was extreme towards the base of the mountain as well as in the plain, and the masses of snow which were condensed near its summit, did not appear to be on the point of melting. However an English traveller has advanced that in the month of September



tember no more snow is seen on OLYMPUS.

We are tempted not to believe the assertion of BROWN, when we have visited the mountain during the hottest part of the summer, and have heard the testimony of the Greek monks, who have succeeded the gods on this great elevation of the globe: they confirmed to us, indeed, what we could scarcely doubt, the perpetual permanence of snow and ice on the top of the mountain.

The reader may easily conceive the immense extent of different countries which our view embraced from the top of OLYMPUS; it seemed to us to touch PELION and Ossa, which form another chain of mountains; and the vale of TEMPE, of which the ancient poets have spoken to us as a place of delight, appeared to us a very narrow gorge, and the river PENEUS which waters it, a streamlet of water scarcely perceptible. However, we there remarked every thing that takes place on very lofty eminences; a very sharp cold, waters still colder, enormous shelves of rocks heaped the one on the other, and alike threatening heaven with their point, and earth with their fall, and at our feet big clouds which, by separating us from the abode of men, seemed to place us in the habitation

of the gods. When we had admired all these objects whose aspect elevates the soul, we agreed to return to our companions, whom we had left at some distance above the last monastery; and as on these rugged and steep rocks, there neither are paths, nor tracks to follow, each of us took the way which appeared most convenient to him to descend, and most frequently to let ourselves slide down, suspended to branches. But such is the habit of travelling in difficult places, that I soon ceased to hear my companions, and I reached the place of rendezvous, upwards of two hours before them.

M. DE T..... had a fever on arriving at the convent of ST. DENNIS, and it manifested itself with such violence as to give me some inquietude.

Two days of rest did not calm it: a monk proposed to dispel it in an instant; and as the question was not to swallow any species of drug, I prevailed on M. DE T..... to suffer him to operate. He took hold of both his arms, the one after the other; and leaning his thumb strongly on the artery at the wrist, he ran it along the vein, still pressing it violently with his thumb, and not without occasioning

causing pain to the patient, almost up to the shoulder. I shall not attempt to explain what may be the effect of this reflux of blood in the arteries; but what I attest, is that the fever ceased, and we were able the next day to descend to the monastery of **SKALA**.

When one arrives at the frozen summit of **OLYMPUS**, one finds many charms in the situation of this convent; the temperature there is mild, vegetation vigorous, and the number of animated beings greater. With the exception of bouquetins, active inhabitants of the rocks, and a few bears, there are hardly any quadrupeds to be seen beyond the half of the height of **OLYMPUS**; scarcely do birds pass this limit, where the heat of the atmosphere begins to be lost, and where the cold increases in proportion as one approaches the summit.

On the 10th, we repaired to **KATHERINN**, where we sent our thanks to the ever-invisible aga; we also sent him a present, for which, according to the manner of the Turks, he thought fit to give us, in exchange, some provisions. We returned to **VROUMERI** on the 19th, a boat deeply laden with corn and soldiers belonging to the Turkish navy, was  
thence

thence departing for SALONICA. At the moment of stepping into her, we separated from our two Albanians; they had accompanied us to the sea shore, and we gave them well-deserved marks of our satisfaction. The wind was contrary; it rose with strength, when we were in the middle of the gulf. The boat being overloaded failed ill, and we were obliged to put into a small cove on the east coast, where we spent the night very uncomfortably, and exposed to the insults of an armed rabble, who have courage only when they feel the superiority of their strength, and who, in battle, are the first to fly: so that we had more to undergo in this little run, than during the continuance of a journey which had been represented to us as very dangerous. At length we arrived in the harbour of SALONICA, on the 20th of July in the afternoon, and we repaired on board of the *MIGNONNE*, where we received the congratulations of friendship, so much the more warm as considerable uneasiness had been felt on our account.

## CHAPTER XL.—AND LAST.

*Departure from Salonica.—Devil's Islands.—Pelagnisi.—Serakino and Dromi.—Saint Elias.—Scopoli.—Skiato.—Skiro—General Observation on the Archipelago.—Andros.—Naples of Romania.—Arrival in France. Invocation to good taste.*

A FEW days after our return from OLYMPUS, the *MIGNONNE* set sail from the harbour of SALONICA. We saluted, as we passed, the ancient residence of the gods and its antique forests, which we had just visited.

On going out of the gulf, the ship directed her course towards the south, after having doubled the DEVIL'S Islands. These are islets, or rather small shoals, the most considerable of which bears the name of *JOURA*: they form the extremity of a chain of islands and rocks, placed before the entrance of the Gulf of SALONICA, and which extends to the east, from the great Promontory of *VOLO*, the ancient *ÆANTUM* of THESSALY, till it faces Mount ATHOS.



This islet of *JOURA*, and a few others, smaller and likewise uninhabited, are very near an island of little extent, which the Greeks call *PELAGNISI*; and our navigators, *PELERISSE*. It was formerly called *PEPARETHUS*, and was scarcely more important than it is in our days; it, nevertheless, produced oil and wine which had some reputation. The numerous windings of its coasts render them as if indented, and two deep bights would form two good harbours, were not their entrance narrow and difficult.

Two small islands, *SERAKINO* and *DROMI*, also afford a place of shelter to navigators. Between them and *SCOPOLI*, a mountain rises in the midst of the waters; it is called *ST. ELIAS*: the same name is met with in several parts of *GREECE*, and it is always the highest mountains that have there been consecrated to the prophet.

*SCOPELO*, and more commonly *SCOPOLI*, the *SCOPELOS* of the ancients, is the principal of this group of islands, situated near the coast of *GREAT GREECE*. It is fertile, and would be an agreeable abode, if it ceased to lose, through the viciousness of its administration, the favours lavished on it by Nature. The wine of *SCOPOLI* is still one of the best of the

the ARCHIPELAGO; but a strong flavour of tar renders it unpalatable to many. Off the town, or rather the village, ships find a harbour which is not very safe; they, in general, prefer the anchorage of a great road, formed by a few shoals and the Island of SCOPOLI.

The last of these islands, the remains of the continent of GREECE, and consequently the nearest to the coast, is that of *SKIATO*, whose name has not changed. It is separated from the Island of SCOPOLI only by a channel of about two leagues, and that which is between it and the main land is not much wider. Anchorages, rather numerous and safe, are to be found along the east coast, and between the small islets which are on the same side: to this nearly are reduced the advantages of this little island.

In the middle of the Isle of *DROMI* are two or three rocks, which are called *THE BROTHERS*, and below that of *PELAGNISI* is a very small island called *SKANGERO*.

We passed between the Islands *IPSARA* and *SKIRO*. Our navigators give to this latter the corrupted denomination of *SAINT GEORGE DE SQUIRRE*. This was the ancient kingdom of *LYCODEMES*, celebrated from the loves of  
ACHILLES

ACHILLES and DEIDAMIA. At this day it is no longer any thing but the theatre of wretchedness, where are still to be found a few vestiges of the magnificence of its ancient edifices. Steep rocks rise on its surface; but they also leave, between their bases, vallies which would be adorned with all the riches of culture, if the inhabitants were more numerous, more active, and less oppressed.

If the reader cast his eye on the map of GREECE, he will remark, that all the great capes of the continent have before them a range of islands which extend into the sea, and always in the same direction as the cape off which they are situated. These are, beyond a doubt, summits of mountains detached from the chain, whose promontories are themselves only shreds; and this observation, added to those which are scattered in this work, does not allow us to doubt that the Greek ARCHIPELAGO, at very remote periods, formed a continent whose plains have been swallowed up, and which no longer shews itself but by lofty points, signals of its ancient existence, and enormous pinnacles, which the eye of the observer may still follow, and which serve him  
to

to trace the large fissures of this immense separation of lands.

*ANDROS*, a considerable island, lying in front of the peninsula of *AGRIPO*, commonly called *NEGROPONTE*, inclining like it towards the south, cannot be mistaken for the continuation of Cape *DORO*. It was itself attached to the land of *TINO*, and the latter to that of *MYCONI*, where the mountains diminishing in height and solidity, have not been able to present a sufficiently strong resistance to the impetuosity of the waters, but have been submerged. *ANDROS*, which has preserved its ancient name, is one of the Islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO* the most worthy of remark, according to the expression of *STRABO*, from the fertility of its soil and the good quality of its productions: it wants only a good harbour and a better government.

We passed between this island and Cape *DORO*, leaving on our left the small island of *JOURA*, and, farther off, that of *SYRA*, all whose inhabitants follow the catholic rite; and after having traversed the long string of islands which extends from Cape *COLONNA* very far into the sea, and for a knowledge of which I refer to the chart, having nothing particular

particular to say of them, since I saw them only at a distance, we cast anchor at the head of the Gulf of *NAPOLI*, off the town of the same name, which is commonly called *NAPOLI DI ROMANIA*, on the coast of the *MOREA*.

A fortress of prodigious elevation, the ascent to the top of which is by a flight of steps almost straight, the work of the Venetians, defends the town and harbour. This is one of the most trading towns of the *LEVANT*; it would be much more so, if the Turks knew how to afford protection, instead of spreading destruction, or multiplying obstacles. There, as well as on all the coast of the *MOREA*, many cargoes of oil are shipped, and olive-trees constitute the principal wealth of the country.

I availed myself of the few days which the frigate passed in the harbour of *NAPOLI DI ROMANIA*, in order to make a few excursions inland: I was fond of directing them towards the ancient and celebrated *ARGOS*. Had not history transmitted to us the certainty of its existence, we should at present be ignorant that it had ever been built. Time and men have annihilated every vestige of it, so powerful is the empire



pire of destruction which consumes works the most substantial, and is incessantly changing the surface of the globe! And man, hurried away in his ephemeral existence by the torrent of ages, acts as if he were to last for ever, and live eternally on the earth!

The cruise of the *MIGNONNE* in the LEVANT was terminated: we repaired to the Island of MALTA, concerning which I have given some account in my TRAVELS IN EGYPT; and, on board this ship, I entered the port of TOULON, on the 18th of October, 1780, at ten o'clock in the evening, after an absence and a journey of four years.

In terminating this work, I cannot refrain from expressing a sentiment which weighs on my mind, a wish which will be that of all men who have preserved the love of French literature. Great models exist; but by what fatality do they appear consigned to oblivion? Not being able to follow them, I take a delight in admiring them, and I have thought of paying them the sole homage of which I was capable, by employing no other language than that which they have taught us, and by writing Travels in GREECE, without any Greek expression, taking care to avoid that crowd of new words, which in-

capacity engendered, as pedantic empiricism wished to make of the language of the RACINES, VOLTAIRES, FÉNELONS, BOSSUETS, and BUFFONS, a barbarous tongue replete with foreign words, grotesquely metamorphosed into French. In taking up my pen to write this narrative, I invoked Peace, the object of every wish, and source of every blessing: it has not been able to resist the combinations of the guardian genius of FRANCE, nor the prodigies of our arms. Eternal glory to the wisdom by which it was dictated, to the courageous talents by which it was conquered! Mankind preserve the remembrance of great benefits, and gratitude will transmit this, from age to age, in the annals of nations.

There is another benefit which letters expect from this new state of peace and happiness; and where can we better place an invocation to Good Taste than at the end of Travels in countries which were so long the theatre of it? Privileged heirs of what ancient GREECE displayed in graces and talents, LAHARPE, DELILLE, SAINT LAMBERT, BOUFFLERS, LACEPÈDE, BERNARDIN SAINT PIERRE, SÉGUR, &c. you who have all preserved that purity of style, that colouring

louring of images, that justness of expression, that urbanity truly attic, which constituted the glory of our literature, exert your right of inheritance, and repel the sacrilegious efforts of Bad Taste, which has attempted, unfortunately with too much success, to take possession of your honourable domain: let it disappear for ever with its burlesque innovations; and our country shall soon be, what it was not long since, the abode of public prosperity, and the brilliant appanage of the fine arts.



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N. B. The Roman figures indicate the Volume; and the  
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*KAMEDRON.* This is the germander, a tree, an infusion of whose leaves serves for curing fevers and strengthening the stomach ii. 384.

- Kammeni*, or *Burnt Island*. A small island, called in antiquity *Hiera*, sacred. It is formed of calcined substances. Two sorts of Kammeni are distinguished, i. 288. 289 and foll. After a violent shock of an earthquake, it appears quite resplendent with burning stones. Dreadful noise which is heard in this island, 298. 299 and foll. The Little Kammeni is destitute of vegetable earth. The Great Kammeni produces a few herbs, 309.
- Katherinn*. A large village or town, which serves as a residence to an Albanian prince, ii. 379.
- Kerry*. This Frenchman becomes consul at Canea, i. 327.
- Kupros*, a shrub known to botanists by the name of *Larsonia inermis*, or thornless Egyptian privet. The women dye their nails with its flowers. This custom is general in Turkey, i. 39. 40 and foll.

## L

- LADANUM*, known among the ancients under the name of *cistus*. Goats formerly collected this resinous substance. New proceedings which are at this day employed for gathering it, i. 402 and foll.
- Larnica*. The town of this name is fallen from its ancient splendour. An unhealthful abode. The heat there is suffocating. Immense cisterns, formerly destined for preserving the oil which was drawn from forests of olive-trees, i. 84. 85 and foll.
- Lemnos*. Nature has done every thing for the embellishment of this celebrated island, and yet it is in a wretched state under the tyrannic yoke of the Mussulmans, ii. 347.
- Lentisk*. This shrub is very common on the surface of Argentiera. The Greeks of some islands burn no other wood.

wood. From its fruits is expressed an oil good for burning, ii. 54. The women of the East make great use of a gum which is drawn from it for preserving the teeth and making the breath sweet. Details respecting this gum, 124.

*Leprosy.* Still exercises the greatest ravages in the Island of Cyprus, i. 373. 374. Insolence of the Mussulman lepers in regard to christians. Hideous spectacles afforded by the hospitals for lepers, 375. 376. This disorder was also brought into the Island of Candia by the crusaders, 396.

*Lero.* A poor island, covered with high mountains which contain minerals, i. 248.

*Limassol*, formerly Nemofia. Is no longer any thing but a miserable town full of ruins. Its harbour, however, is still pretty much frequented, i. 87. 88.

## M

*MACEDONIA.* The houses are very well built in that country. The aspect of the villages there is agreeable. The dogs keep a good watch around them, ii. 373, 374 and foll.

*Macri* (Gulf of). It affords excellent havens to shipping, i. 122. 123.

*Madder.* Plant with which cottons, in the Island of Cyprus, are dyed red. Precautions which ought to be observed when a vessel takes in madder, i. 67. 68.

*Madness.*—See *Hydrophobia*.

*Marcopoli.* Evangelical modesty of that Greek priest. He was very well informed, and respected both by the Turks and Greeks, ii. 24. 25.

*Marriage.* The Greek women, before their marriage, are obliged to furnish evident proofs of their virtue, ii. 118. 119. The Greeks marry young. Before this ceremony, the young girl is conducted to the bath. Dances announce the retinue which accompanies the new couple to church, 130. 131. The young couple choose a godfather and godmother. A singular ceremony which is practised for ascertaining the virtue of the bride, 133. 134 and foll.

*Marseilles.* Striking picture of this town, formerly so commercial, i. 18. 19. Cause of our losses, 20. 21 and foll. This town carries on a trade with Canea, 329.

*Mastic*, or gum, drawn from the *lentisk*.—See that word.

*Melanarus*, a fish called *oblade* on our coasts of the Mediterranean, i. 255.—See too *Plate V. fig. 1.*

*Merchandise* (List of articles of) which enter into the trade of the Archipelago.—See the word *Trade*.

*Mézerei.* This historian speaks of a great irruption of grasshoppers in the South of France, i. 66.

*Milo* (Island of)—See too the article *Argentiera*.—Fires long since kindled there consume the bowels of the earth. The vegetable earth there is, nevertheless, very productive. Population has singularly diminished in this island, ii. 221. 222. Almost all the inhabitants of this island have their legs swelled, owing to pestilential miasmata. Strangers dread to make there even a momentary stay. The town of Milo at this day presents the spectacle of desolation, 223. 224. There, is perceived an aperture in the earth, whence issued vapours very destructive. It has been stopped up: but these vapours have found other issues, 229. Vapour-baths produced by the general conflagration of the interior of the island. Hippocrates formerly sent patients thither.

The

The sulphur which is drawn from this island is reckoned to be of the best quality, 232. Under a wise administration, it might cease to be an unhealthful abode, 234. 235. A more particular description of the Island of Milo. The harbour affords excellent anchorage, 237. This island frequently experiences earthquakes, 247. 248. Frightful phenomena which are there seen, 249. 250 and foll.

*Mineralogy.* The mines of Argentiera, formerly worked, are at this day abandoned. They never were very productive. The Russians attempted to work them anew, ii. 34. 35. Properties of an argillaceous substance called *Cimolian earth*. No work of mineralogy makes mention of it. The Author has met with it no where. It is a natural soap, 37. 38 and foll. This earth is very fit for taking out grease spots. The Romans were acquainted with this mineralogical substance, since Pliny speaks of it, 39. 40 and foll. Rock alum is to be found at Milo, in natural excavations. It there shews itself in efflorescence. Salt is made of it, 232. 233 and foll.

*Mines of Calamo*, i. 246. 247. Admirable stalactites which are found in the convent of Catholicos, 358.

*Mitylene.* This island, sometimes called Metelin, was the country of Pittacus. The position of Mitylene renders the possession of it very important. ii. 344. 345 and foll.

*Monks, Greek.*—See the word *Caloyers*.

*Morea (The).* On all the coast of this peninsula, a great trade is carried on in oil, ii. 400.

*Mormyrus*, a fish whose flesh does not correspond with the beauty of its exterior, i. 254. 255.

*Mulberry-trees.* There are small woods of them in the Island of Cyprus, i. 51.

*Mullets.*



*Mullets.* In summer, a great many of these fishes are taken in the Archipelago, i. 253. 254.

*Mullet (Bearded).* This fish is very scarce in the sea of the Archipelago. Cruel sufferings to which the Romans, through luxury, put this fish, which produces the most beautiful shades, ii. 204. 205.

*Murad Bey.* Character of this chief of the Mamalûks. His bravery, i. 24. 25.

*Muræna*, or sea-serpent. Notes on this fish, i. 168. 169 and foll.—See too *Plate IV. fig. 1.*—Its dimensions, 172. 173. These fishes are common in the Archipelago, 174. 175.

*Myconi.* This island has a harbour much frequented by navigators. The Myconites neglect the culture of their lands, in order to give themselves up to trade. Every thing is parched up in their fields. Their bad reputation in antiquity, ii. 303. 304 and foll.

*Myrtles.* Grow spontaneously in the Island of Candia, and form the hedges of the country, i. 391.

## N

*NANFIO* (Island of). Its first name, i. 277. 278. It was formerly covered with forests, 279. Red partridges are there very common. Great wretchedness in that island, 280 281.

*Napoli di Romania.* It has a fortress of prodigious elevation, the work of the Venetians. it is built near the site of ancient Argos, ii. 400.

*Naxia.* The Author points out this famous island as likely to serve as an emporium to the French traders in the Archipelago. It is the largest of the Cyclades. The  
Greeks

Greeks of the present day are there still free like their ancestors. Beauty of this island, ii. 280, 281. The principal inhabitants are descended from ancient families of France, Spain, and Italy, and are renowned for their affability and politeness. The coasts of their island afford good places of shelter, 282. 283.

*Nicaria*. This small island has no harbours. Scanty population. Ungrateful soil, ii. 303.

*Nicosia*. Capital of the Island of Cyprus. The palaces and the church of this town. Its agreeable situation, i. 84.

*Niebuhr*, a Danish traveller. His account respecting grasshoppers, i. 63. 64.

*Nightingale*. This bird directs its route towards the south, and lives during the winter in Lower Egypt. It does not breed there, and is silent during its stay in that climate, which is foreign to it, ii. 188. 189.

*Nio*. An island celebrated by the death of Homer. Hospitable character of the inhabitants. Kindness of the women. The island is fertile in corn, i. 281. 282. The dress of the women is repugnant to decency, 285. 286. Dissertation on the dress of the Turkish women, 286. 287.

*Nisari* (Island of). Its fabulous origin, i. 208. 209. Shoals near this island, 209. 210.

## O

**OBSEQUIES** (Funeral). Death among the Greeks always inspires sentiments of unfeigned grief. Relations frequently visit the grave, and there make repeated offerings, ii. 149. 150 and foll. They invoke the dead in a loud voice. The dead are carried to the grave with

- with their face uncovered, and in their richest garments, 152. 153 and foll.
- Oil*, good for burning. The Greeks of Argentierra draw it from the lentisk, and several islands burn no other wood but that of this shrub, ii. 54.
- Olive-trees*. They are far less common in the Island of Cyprus than in past times. The soil is very favourable to this tree, i. 50. 51. No soil is more favourable to it than the Island of Candia. The Greeks know not how to derive from it the advantage which we do, 398. These trees were consumed by the flames in the Island of Argentierra, during the wars between the Venetians and the Turks, ii. 29. 30. Olive-oil is sometimes introduced into curative methods, 143. 144.
- Olivier*. This naturalist and traveller asserts that *Cimolian earth* is only a slow and gradual decomposition of porphyries, occasioned by subterraneous fires, ii. 41. 42.
- Olympus*. This mountain, so celebrated, is occupied by Albanian robbers. Their hatred is terrible against the inhabitants of Salonica, ii. 364. The Author, nevertheless, travels thither disguised as a physician, 365. 366 and foll. He arrives at the foot of this mountain. A priest throws great difficulties in his way, 375. 376 and foll. Vegetation is there in a most flourishing state. Storks are there very common. Veneration which is still entertained for these birds, 377. 378. Having reached a certain height, the Author sees a convent of Greek monks. Above this insulated convent there are no more habitations on Olympus, 389. Sharp cold which he there experiences. The summit is covered with snow and ice, and it is impossible to reach it, *ib.* and 390. Magnificent prospect which is to be viewed from the top of this mountain. The Author's fellow-traveller falls ill. He is cured by a monk, 392. 393.

*Olympus* (Little). A charming mountain of the Island of Cyprus, i. 79. 80.

*Onions*. This legume causes no shedding of tears in Egypt, as it does in Europe. It is also very mild in the environs of Cnidus, i. 191. 192.

*Orange-trees*. These charming shrubs form bowers round the habitations of the Island of Cyprus. Delightful picture which the Author draws of these odoriferous bowers, i. 60.

*Orfano*. This gulf was known among the ancients under the name of *Sinus Strymonicus*, ii. 354.

*Origany*. Employed as a remedy by the Greeks of the islands of the Archipelago, ii. 145.

## P

*PAINT*. In the islands of the Archipelago, it is composed of the bulbs of an iris. Use which is made of this composition. The face of the women is not affected by it, ii. 125. 126.

*Paillouri*. A cape which, with Cape Drepano, forms the Gulf of Cassandra, ii. 355.

*Paleo-Castro*. This is the name which the modern Greeks give to all ancient towns. A dreadful fright with which the inhabitants of one of these towns are seized on the approach of two vessels, i. 427.

*Paphos*. Formerly the abode of delight, now presents the aspect of wretchedness, i. 88. 89.

*Paros*. This celebrated island has had several names. Its ancient splendour. It gave birth to the most illustrious statuary in the world, ii. 263. 264 and foll. A small town has replaced the ancient city of Paros.

The

The coast of this island presents good anchorages: the Russians made some stay here, 266. 267 and foll.

*Partridge.* In the islands of the Archipelago this bird with difficulty endures confinement. Bartavelle, or red partridge, of a singular species, whose bill grows long, and bends inward, i. 161. 162. These birds are so common in the Island of Nansio, that the inhabitants are obliged to destroy a great part of their eggs, 279. 280. Partridges, especially red ones, are in great numbers in the Islands of the Archipelago, *ib.* It is as difficult to get at them as at hares. The berries of the lentisk occasion their flesh to contract a bitter flavour. The gray partridge is not known in the East, ii. 276. 271. There is a particular species of partridge in the East, which appears there only for a few days, *ib.*

*Patmos* (Island of). Arid rocks and numerous capes. It is celebrated from the exile of St. John. Error respecting a convent of monks of this island, ii. 296. 297.

*Patriarch* (The), is appointed by the Grand Signior. This eminent place is an object of speculation, i. 351. 352. Humiliating manner in which he is appointed, *ib.* Translation of a firman for the nomination of a Greek bishop, 355. 356.

*Paww.* The authority of that traveller combated by the Author of this work, i. 9. 10. 11. 14.

*Pedicus.* A river of the Island of Cyprus, which rolls down in its waters red jasper, i. 47.

*Pelagnisi.* An islet of the Archipelago, ii. 396.

*Perch.* Etymology of the name of that fish. The ancients considered it as unwholesome food. It is asserted that there are none in the Ocean, ii. 199. 200.

*Pheasants.* During the winter these birds are sometimes seen in the most northern islands of the Archipelago: captains of ships lay in a stock of them, ii. 173. 174.

*Physic.*



*Physic.* The thermal waters of Argentiera are, among the Greeks, reckoned to possess great virtues. The Author thinks that partial applications of these waters on the parts affected, would be more efficacious than total immersion, ii. 44. 45 and foll. Most of the disorders by which our flocks are attacked, are unknown in the Levant. The shepherds themselves are the physicians of their flocks, 69. 70. In the Greek islands, all physic is founded only on ridiculous practices. The women are the physicians the most in fashion, 141. 142 and foll. They have hereditary recipes in certain families, 145 and foll. Manner in which the Turks dress wounds, 146 and foll. Character of one of these quack-doctors, 261. 262.

*Plague (The).* Frequently ravages the Island of Rhodes. Pestiferous persons penetrate, with as much liberty as a healthy man, into the different countries of the Ottoman empire. Singular preservative indicated to the author by some monks, i. 155. 156. Courage is the best preservative, 218. The small-pox is the forerunner of that terrible scourge, and almost always precedes it, 219. For want of care, the Turks have suffered the plague to find its way to Chio, ii. 320. Almost every year the plague desolates Smyrna. Stupid resignation of the Turks who might oppose the ravages of that destructive disorder, 334. 335. A person may secure himself from it by holding no communication with those who are infected by it, 336. 337. The constitution is of great weight in this disorder. Detail on the subject of its commencement, its progress, and its end, 338. 339 and foll.

*Plovers (Golden).* Are very common in the Island of Candia, i. 419.

*Policandro.*

*Policandro* (Island of). The inhabitants of this island pickle in vinegar turtles which they kill, ii. 183. This is the ancient Pholegandros: its soil is extremely rugged. Scanty population. The vine grows there in the midst of stones. It is the rendezvous of birds of passage, 257. 258.

*Polivo* (Island of). The Venetians destroyed by fire the olive-trees with which it was covered. It is separated only by a little channel from the Island of Argentiera. It might be cultivated, and the rearing of bees be there attended to, ii. 72. 73. It might also furnish commercial speculations, and a person would there lead a pleasant and quiet life, *ib.*

*Prase*. Near this little haven, are seen grottoes dug in the rock. The environs furnish a great quantity of wild artichokes, good to be eaten, ii. 52. 53.

*Pregoulina*, mother of a hospodar of Moldavia. She assures the Author that women felt much less than men the malignant influence of a residence in Milo, ii. 225. 226.

*Priests* (Greek). They go through their religious ceremony with precipitation and irreverence. Monotony of their singing, i. 349. 350 and foll. They debase their character by the most greedy cupidity, 352 and foll.

*Pyrgos*, is the most agreeable place in the Island of Santorin. Description of this little town, i. 314. 315.

## Q

*QUAILS*. Common at Alexandria, i. 33. 34 and foll. They never stop in the Island of Rhodes, 165. The period of their passage varies according to the winds which prevail. They follow a uniform route from which they seldom deviate. They are salted in the Greek Islands, 166. 172. 173.

*RATS*.

## R

*RATS.* They multiply in the Island of Rhodes. Manner in which vessels get rid of them, i. 141. 142.

*Red-breast.* It arrives in the Levant in the month of October. The Greeks wage war on it, ii. 189.

*Retimo.* A part of the population of that town has passed to Canea. It was formerly a place famous for its oil, i. 426.

*Rhodes.* An Island of Asia. Its form, i. 135. City of that name, capital of the island formerly inhabited by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, 135. 136 and foll. Its different harbours are becoming obstructed from day to day, 139 and foll. Description of the famous colossus, 143. 144 and foll. The sun never passes a single day without shewing itself there, 147. Mild temperature of the climate, *ib.* and foll. Origin of the name of Rhodes, 149. Its inhabitants are navigators. Philosophical reflections on the beautiful edifices which embellished that island, 153. 154. The plague frequently desolates it. Preservative against that scourge, 155. 156. Turks and Greeks people this country, 156. 157. Of what importance Rhodes may become. Description of its different harbours, 158. 159. Territorial resources. Beauty of the soil, 160. 161. Taste of the Rhodians for gardens. Fish is very plentiful on the coast of Rhodes, 166.

*Robbers.* Character of the Albanian robbers, ii. 380. 381.

*Rue.* This plant grows in abundance on the uncultivated lands of the large islands. The Greeks make use of it as an amulet, ii. 147. 148.

## S

*SAFFRON.* It grows naturally on the mountains of the Island of Argentiera. It is a small branch of commerce for that miserable country. An egg serves as a weight for felling the valuable flower of the saffron, ii. 54. 55 and foll.

*Salamis.* A kingdom founded by Teucer in the Island of Cyprus, i. 83. 84.

*Salonica.* This town is built on the site of *Therma*. It is one of the largest cities of Turkey. Narrow and unpaved streets, ii. 357. 358. Fires are there rather frequent. This city is extremely ill defended by very bad ramparts. It is the emporium of a considerable trade. It is not a very wholesome place of residence, 513.

*Salterns,* formed in the Isle of Cyprus in a great lake. They do not at this day yield what they yielded formerly. Great trade which the Venetians formerly carried on in salt, i. 48. 49.

*Samos* (Island of). The ancients had given this name to three different islands. The Samians are the mildest and most witty of the Greeks. It is one of the islands the most favoured by Nature, ii. 299. 300 and foll. It is separated from the continent only by a channel half a league in length, 302 and foll.

*Samothrace.* This celebrated island has lost all its advantages, ii. 350.

*Santorin* (Island of) has experienced singular changes through the effect of subterraneous fires, i. 287. 288. New islands which have risen all round it. Detailed history of this great revolution, 288. 289 and foll. The Greeks consider them as works of hell. Whimsical ceremonies

ceremonies which the Greek bishop of Santorin practises there, 307. 308. New etymology of the word *Santorin*, 311. This island had no Turks before the arrival of two Frenchmen, *Olivier* and *Bruguère*, 316. 317 and foll.

*Sargus*. This is one of the most common fishes in the sea of the Archipelago. Its flesh is hard and tough. The divers of the Isle of Symi carry on a continual war against it, ii. 201. 202.

*Savary*. This traveller embellishes things at the expense of truth, i. 324. Captivating style of this writer. His lively imagination and the excellent qualities of his heart, 325. 326 and foll.

*Scaro* (Castle of). Frightful situation of this castle which appears suspended above horrible precipices, i. 315.

*Scarpanto* (Island of).—See the article *Santa Catherina*.

*Scarus*. This fish, famous in antiquity, lives in numerous societies. It is asserted that these societies have a chief. When a scarus bites at the hook, all the others surround the captive, ii. 198. 199.

*Scopelo*. This is the principal island of a group situated near Greece. It produces one of the best wines of the Archipelago, ii. 396.

*Serakino*, a very small island of the Archipelago, affords an anchorage to navigators, ii. 396.

*Serpents*, have multiplied in the Island of Cyprus, as well as mischievous insects, i. 94. Serpents were formerly very common in the Island of *Argentiera*, ii. 35. The Greeks treat bites of serpents by great incisions on the wound, 148. They also treat them with cataplasms of emollient plants, 251. 252.

*Serpent* (Sea), a fish.—See the article *Muraena*.



*Sheep.* At Argentiera, they always live in the open air, ii. 68.

*Sifour.* From this steep village of Milo, is discovered the most beautiful horizon. Great ruins are perceived in the environs of the village. There, is met with a spring of water almost luke-warm, ii. 243. 244. 245 and foll. Ridiculous superstition of old women of this village in regard to a child bitten by a viper, 251. 252.

*Sikino,* produces a great many vines. The population there is very considerable. A shoal dreaded by seamen, ii. 258. 259.

*Siphanto* (Island of). It was formerly very flourishing. The morals of its inhabitants discredited in antiquity. Mines of gold and silver. Beautiful marble. An agreeable and cheerful island. Mild and hospitable character of the Greeks who inhabit this island, ii. 259. 260 and foll.

*Skala.* A convent of Greek monks, built on Mount Olympus. This convent is surrounded by forests, ii. 383.

*Skangero.* A very small Island of the Archipelago, ii. 397.

*Skatari,* a fish of the Archipelago. Its exterior conformation, ii. 256. 257 and foll.—See too *Plate V.* fig. 2.

*Skiato.* A small island of the Archipelago, which is separated from Scopoli only by a channel two leagues in width, ii. 397.

*Skiro,* an island celebrated from the amours of Achilles and Deidamia. It is no longer at this day any thing but the theatre of wretchedness, ii. 397. 398.

*Smyrna.* This is a city of the Levant extremely interesting. The quarter of the Europeans there resembles a town of Europe. The Turks there are very mild. Great industry of the Greeks. State of commerce of the French in this sea-port of the Levant, 493. 494. Beautiful.

Beautiful climate. Delightful position. Violent earthquakes, *ib.* and foll.

*Soda*. The sandy soil of Cape Cromachiti in Cyprus, is covered with this plant, i. 67.

*Soliman*. This Sultan of the Turks immortalized himself by his conduct full of greatness of soul in regard to Villiers de l'Île-Adam, grand-master of Rhodes, i. 136. 137.

*Sphachia*. A mountain of the Island of Candia. The Greeks of this mountain speak their language more purely than their other countrymen. They are good warriors and very dexterous in shooting with a bow. Turkish travellers dread them exceedingly, ii. 427. 428.

*Spider (Scorpion)*. There is a frightful, terrible one in the Island of Cyprus. Curious discussion relative to this insect, i. 94. 95. and foll. Description, 98. 99 and foll.—See too *Plate III.*

*Squills*, or sea-onions which grow on the mountains and between the rocks of the Island of Argentiera. They are very fit for the cure of tetters, i. 272. 273.

*Sparrows*. They assemble in the East as in our countries. None of these birds are seen in places where poverty reigns. They avoid the Island of Argentiera, because it is wretched, ii. 185. 186.

*Sparus*. A fish extremely voracious. Error of Aristotle who thought that there existed no male in this species, ii. 202. 203 and foll.

*Stampalia* (Island of). Origin of that name. The borders of this fertile island are as if rent, i. 248. 249. Its fertility occasions the misfortune of its inhabitants, 250. 251. The sea abounds with fish near this island, 252 and foll.

*Stancho*.

*Stanchò*, formerly the Island of Cos. Origin of this name.

Cos, the country of Hippocrates and Apelles. Temple of Esculapius, i. 212. 213. Delightful situation of Stanchò, a modern town, 216. The plague desolates it frequently, 217. This generally happens in the month of January. Population of this town, 218. 219 and foll. The south part of the island is hilly, 223. Wine there is delicious, *ib.* Ancient tree, under the shade of which is built a fountain, 226. 227. Flagship of the Turks carried off by a handful of christian slaves from this island, and taken to Malta, 231. 232 and foll. Adventures of the bold man who executed this enterprise, 235. 236 and foll.

*Stomach* (Cure of the disorders of the). — See the article *Kamedron*.

*Superstition*. The inhabitants of Amorgo consult a vase as an oracle, i. 226. 227. Superstition of the inhabitants of Argentiera, ii. 19. 20. The modern Greeks believe in prestiges and enchantments, 76. 77 and foll. Superstitious practices of the Greek girls, who have recourse to St. John, 119. 120 and foll.

*Sugar-canes*. The Venetians had made very fine plantations of them in the Island of Cyprus. The tyranny of the Turks has occasioned this useful kind of culture to be relinquished, although the soil of the island is favourable to it, i. 57. 58.

*Symioti*, or inhabitants of *Symi*, are the boldest divers in the world. Laborious life of these islanders. They are robust and vigorous men. Their life is simple and independent, i. 185. 186.

*Syra*, a small island of the Greek Archipelago, all whose inhabitants follow the catholic rite, ii. 399.

## T

*TALC*, is common in the Island of Cyprus, i. 48.

*Tarantula*. This species of spider is reckoned to be very venomous in the Island of Candia. Description of that insect, i. 416. 417.

*Tasso*. This island was famous on account of its gold mines. Marble is found there as much esteemed as that of Paros. It was very fertile. It produces fine timber for ship-building, ii. 351. 352. and foll.

*Tenedos*. The loss of this island might involve that of Constantinople. The Porte nevertheless guards this important post with the greatest negligence, ii. 349.

*Thera*. Ruins which attest the ancient magnificence of that city. Singular custom practised formerly, i. 313. 314.

*Thessalonica*.—See the article *Salonica*.

*Thrushes*. These birds are very common in the islands of the Archipelago, and during the winter, they come into the houses in order to shelter themselves from the cold, ii. 178. 179.

*Tino* (Island of), has no good harbour. The plains are very rich. These islanders are the most happy of all the Greeks. Silk is one of the most abundant productions of the island, ii. 309. 310 and foll.

*Tortoise (Land)*. In the Levant, it is intrusted with the care of ridding the houses of the enormous quantity of fleas with which they are infested, ii. 196. 197.

*Trade*. Flourishing state of the French trade to the Levant before the year 1789, i. 16. 17. The French government ought to use its efforts in order to revive it in the East.

East. Immense profits which may thence result. Plan of an establishment of commercial relations in the islands of the Archipelago, ii. 270. 271 and foll. Causes of the decline of the Levant-trade before our revolution, 275. 276. Miserable parsimony introduced into the manufacture of woollen cloths destined for the Levant-trade, 284. 285 and foll. There are two sorts of merchandize for importation, 289. 290. List of the different articles of merchandize which enter into the trade of the Archipelago, 291. 292 and foll.

*Traders (French).* Their emporium in the Archipelago is the Island of Naxia, ii. 275. 276. See too the article *Naxia*.

*Trinity (Convent of the).* Picturesque situation of that place, i. 334. 335. It is frequently laid under contribution by the Turks, 336. 337 and foll. The monks neither can embellish nor repair their dwelling, 340. 341.

*Turks.* Their empire, in the Author's opinion, cannot be of long duration. The authority of the Sultan is called in question, i. 13. 14. 15. They are egregiously despised in Egypt by the Mamalûks, 24. Being bad sailors, they work their ships with difficulty. Ignorance of their pilots, 113. 114. The French have instructed this nation in the maritime art. What has thence resulted, 116. 117. The Turks broke out into the most serious excesses against the French, and those excesses always remained unpunished. Various traits of cruelty of these Mussulmans, 129. 130 and foll. How frightful their despotism is, especially in the islands of the Archipelago, 236. 237.

*Turtles.* These birds are common in the Island of Rhodes. Soft emotions which they cause to feeling minds, i. 162. 163 and foll. They do not suffer themselves to be approached



proached without difficulty. The Greeks nevertheless destroy them in great numbers, ii. 182. 183.

## U

*URCHIN-(SEA)*. The Greeks make a great consumption of this fish. It is not caught in abundance except in calm weather. *Jews*, urchins thus called because they are considered as dangerous, ii. 212. 213 and foll.

## V

*VAIVODE*. Thus, in certain islands of the Archipelago, is called the chief who commands the Greeks, ii. 26. 27. *Verdac* and *Verdari*, names of a little river and of a small town of Thessaly, ii. 362.

*Volcano*. There exists a most terrible one in the sea of the Archipelago. Navigators hear the waters boil up under their ships; i. 288. 289. Infectious odour which issues from unknown mouths of this volcano. The sea is seen to throw up smoke, and water to appear as oil thrown on the fire, 293. 294 and foll. This volcano is at present quiet. A loud and hollow roaring only is heard, 306. 307. A considerable quantity of pumice-stones which float on the sea of the Archipelago, 308. 309. Traces of a volcano are remarked in the sea of Argentiera. There, is seen the crater of a volcano which has for a long time exhaled infectious vapours, ii. 43. 44. 47. 48. The mountains or hills which have more immediately experienced the action of volcanoes, are at present covered with earth, 51. 52 and foll.

*Volo*, a promontory known in antiquity by the name of *Ceantium*, ii. 395.

*Vroumeri*, a charming village near Mount Olympus, ii. 372.

## W

*WATERS (MINERAL)* of Argentiera, ii. 43. 44.

*Weazel.* The Greeks, as well as the Turks, have a respect for this pretty animal, ii. 164. 165.

*Weever*, a fish. Manner of taking it in the Archipelago, i. 252. Its different colours, 253.

*Wine.* The Island of Cyprus produces excellent wines. The vine-plants are crooked and creeping. These wines need to be old to acquire a good quality. Wine is buried in order to be preserved, i. 69. 70. The wines of Candia ought to be drunk with caution, 400. The wines of Argentiera are not as good as those of the surrounding islands, ii. 31. In the culture of the vine, the Sciots still follow the manner proposed by Cato, 317. 318.

*Women (Greek).* The women of Cyprus were and are still celebrated for their beauty. They are very fond of flowers, i. 78. 79. They wear long and ample drawers. They are clothed more modestly than women are among us, 285. 286. Grand and noble features are their inheritance, 410. The Greek women do not enjoy a good reputation in the Island of Argentiera. Formerly it is possible that they were corrupted on account of the number of privateers which touched at this island, and which there occasioned great disbursements, ii. 57. 58 and foll. These imputations are calumnious when they are applied to the present time; they have, on the contrary, a modesty in their behaviour, 61. They possess advantages of shape and figure; but they spoil them by the whimsicality of their dress, 62. 63. and foll.—See *Plate VI.* Their habitual occupation is to spin

spin cotton. They are seen always with the spindle in their hand, 66. They wear paint; their manner of composing it, 125. 126 and foll. Through superstition, they encircle their wrists with silk threads of different colours, which they throw into the fire on Easter-day, 128. 129. They are the physicians the most in fashion, 141. 142. The women of Milo in particular have a grotesque dress. They have been unjustly described under the same traits as the women of Argentiera, 227. 228. The women of Chio, although free in appearance, are very virtuous, 314. Their superstitious ideas on the subject of silk-worms. Their dress is devoid of grace. Shape of their shoes, 316. 317.—See too *Plate VI.* and the words *Delivery* and *Greece*.

*Women (Turkish).* They dye their nails, i. 40. 41.

*Worm (Silk).* Dissertation on this valuable insect. The ancients were not acquainted with it, i. 224. 225.

THE END.

















